

Hafa Adai!

Dead electrician left behind \$240K CHC bill. PAGE 2  
Man arrested for allegedly burglarizing van at Grotto. PAGE 6

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## Relief for green card applicants

By MARC A. VENUS  
[marc\\_venus@saipantribune.com](mailto:marc_venus@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

**G**reen card applicants in the CNMI who are required to undergo a special type of test for tuberculosis will no longer need to go

off-island to avail of the test as the Diagnostic Laboratory Services, Inc. will be helping administer the test on Saipan.

DLS Saipan manager Mary Jean Jacar confirmed that DLS will soon be collecting blood specimens for the test,

called Interferon Gamma Release Assay, in response to the changes in Form I-693,  
See RELIEF on Page 4

## Living with uncertainty

By BEA CABRERA  
[beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com](mailto:beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com)  
CORRESPONDENT

The delay in the release of a new work permit that would allow them to continue working in the CNMI is fast becoming a widening net of problems for many foreign workers.

Not only do they face the prospect of a forced exit from the CNMI by the end of the month but they also need to make arrangements for their children who are still in school and they will have to leave behind. Many companies that will have to release many workers are looking at the grim prospect of actually

See LIVING on Page 4



## INSIDE



### BUSINESS

Soft, milky, and the right amount of sweetness best describe The Bostonian Bakery's bread.

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### WORLD

The British government and its opponents are facing off at the U.K. Supreme Court.

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### LIFE & STYLE

The behind-the-scenes book about Harvey Weinstein is jarring, riveting and necessary.

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# Local

## Dead electrician left behind \$240K CHC bill

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdiele\_deltatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The electrician who died and left behind \$20,794 in a bank account actually also left behind a \$240,077 hospital bill, according to his former employer.

Juan A. Gacayan, the former employer and the current

administrator of the estate of deceased Eduardo Ocampo David, also claimed that he also paid the Borja Funeral Home \$1,571 for David's funeral expenses and has, to date, incurred \$7,000 in legal fees as administrator.

Gacayan, through his lawyer, Joey P. San Nicolas, also disclosed that, upon David's

passing, he, as the court-appointed administrator of David's estate, communicated with David's three sisters—Maria Gina O. David-Cuenca, Monalisa Ocampo David, and Marline Ocampo David.

San Nicolas asked Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho to allow the continuing appointment of Ga-

cayan as administrator.

San Nicolas also asked the court to grant and permit Gacayan and his company the opportunity to file their legally incurred claims against the estate, should the court decide to not allow Gacayan continue in his role as administrator or if David's heirs decide to replace Gacayan.

Before David died, he had a stroke and was at the Commonwealth Health Center for approximately two months under 24-hour care.

San Nicolas said that because David had no immediate family on Saipan, Gacayan, through his company, JAG Corp. (CNMI) Inc., assigned its workers to the hospital (graveyard shift) to perform bedside-watch of decedent during his hospital stay.

He said Gacayan's company paid its assigned workers company time for the watch, incurring 312 employee hours amounting to \$2,262.

David was a contract worker of Gacayan from Oct. 1, 2017, to Sept. 30, 2018. He passed away on Oct. 15, 2018.

San Nicolas said that even though David's employment

effectively terminated on Sept. 30, 2018, Gacayan continued to attend to and care for David up to the time of his death and after.

After David's passing, Gacayan received David's hospital stay and services bill from CHC. San Nicolas said that Gacayan talked with the CHC administration about the bill and how it was to be paid.

San Nicolas said in the absence of counsel at the time of the filing of David estate's inventory and for final distribution, it was Gacayan's misguided intention to forego the filing of a claim on his behalf and on behalf of the company for all the expenses incurred,

and proceed instead to a final distribution and offset the expenses.

San Nicolas said that after Gacayan retained him as counsel, it was then that Gacayan received further guidance and advice regarding the requirements of the Rules of Probate Procedure.

San Nicolas said that, based on his advice and recommendation, Gacayan filed the amended petition for letters of administration. He said the prompt filing of the amended petition was not made for the purpose of delay or to preju-

dice the best interest of David estate. San Nicolas said it was made because it is the proper thing to do to correct the deficiencies that were made by Gacayan's prior legal representation.

San Nicolas said that, based on the breakdown in communication and access to Gacayan's prior counsel, Rosemond B. Santos, Gacayan sought the termination of Santos' legal representation.

San Nicolas said having access to other probate court case filings, Gacayan on his own filed an inventory of the estate and ultimately a petition for decree of final distribution.

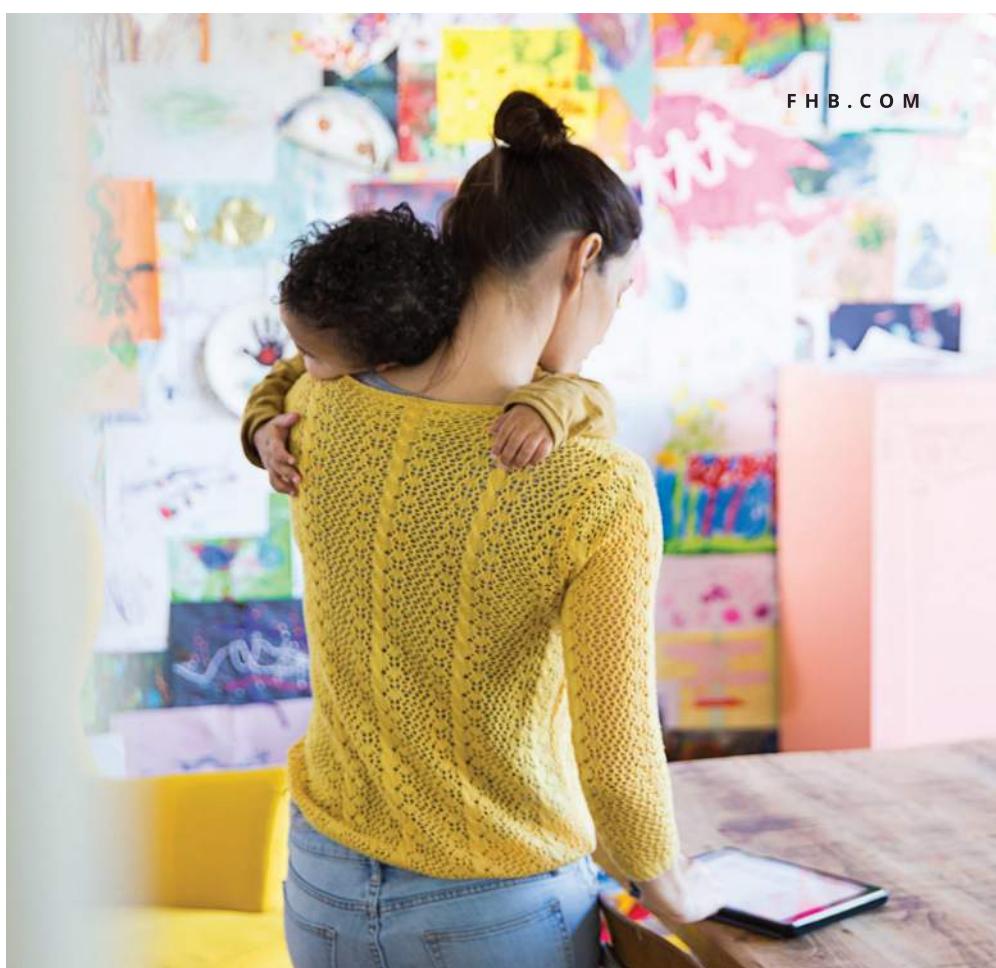
San Nicolas said that, in retaining Santos as counsel, Gacayan fully disclosed to Santos about David's family connection.

San Nicolas said Gacayan believed and understood then, and still believes, that David is unmarried and has no children.

San Nicolas said Gacayan fully disclosed to then-counsel Santos about his communication to David's siblings regarding David's untimely passing.

As to how the contents and substance of the initial court filings were prepared and filed, Gacayan relied on the

*See DEAD on Page 4*



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Seven Department of Corrections officers that former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board chair Francisco Q. Guerrero is suing has been served with summons or complaint related to the lawsuit, which claims that he sustained injuries after another prison inmate beat him up.

This came about after U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Man-

## IN SUIT BY EX-CUC BOARD CHAIR

# 7 DOC officers are served with summons, complaint

glona ordered the U.S. Marshal to serve the summons on the seven individuals in their personal capacity: Joaquin Sablan, Manuela Guerrero, Rachel Rebuenog, Jose Castro, Lynnae Cabrera, Eloy Dela Cruz, and Keith Lizama.

In her order last Friday, Manglona said that Guerrero has stated an Eighth Amendment claim in his pro se complaint against seven prison officials for failing to protect him from violence at the hands of another prisoner.

Guerrero, who has been allowed to file a second amended complaint against seven other prison officials, has not done so, so Guerrero's first amended complaint against the named seven individuals will go through.

Manglona ordered the marshal and not Guerrero to serve the summons and complaint because Guerrero is proceeding in this case in *forma pauperis*, which is a designation given to someone who is without the money to pursue the costs of a lawsuit or a criminal defense.

Last July, Manglona dis-

missed Guerrero's amended lawsuit against seven current and former DOC officials and employees.

Guerrero is serving a six-year prison term for sexual abuse of a minor.

Guerrero alleged that inmate John Kileleman, who is mentally ill, beat him up when he tried to pacify him from beating another inmate in DOC last Jan. 14.

In April 2019, Guerrero, without a lawyer, filed his original complaint against 14 DOC officials and Kileleman.

Guerrero then filed his first amended complaint against seven defendants. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

## Man allegedly throws canned meat at wife, pushes her

A man allegedly came home drunk after gambling and broke several items in their house in Garapan and threw a can of luncheon meat at his wife early Monday morning.

The victim said it was not the first time that her husband, Patrick James D. Tudela, did it when drunk. She claimed that he also slapped her face, pulled her hair, and kicked her on the left leg last July 2017.

Tudela, 33, was arrested Monday by police officers for assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

At a hearing Tuesday, Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan allowed Tudela to post a \$100 cash bail and prohibited him consuming any alcoholic beverages, among other conditions.

Police detective Wally Emul Jr. stated in his report that a police officer responded to a barracks near Capitol Hotel in Garapan after receiving a call about a domestic violence in progress last Monday at 2:19am.

Emul said the officer met the victim, who was exposed to the rain with her 15-month-old son, standing by her neighbor's house.

The victim said her husband, Tudela, chased her out, along with their son, and locked him-

self inside their house.

The victim told police that while she and their child were sleeping, Tudela came home at 1:30am and started shouting and broke items in the kitchen and living room.

The officer proceeded to the house, where he noticed things on the floor and that the house was a mess. The officer asked another officer to arrest Tudela.

Emul said that during his follow-up interview, the victim said that Tudela became upset last Sunday when she went to her parents' house to make her son visit his grandmother.

Later that night, Tudela left their house to gamble. He came home Monday around 1:30am and allegedly started shouting and breaking items.

The wife said Tudela threw a can of Spam at her, hitting her stomach.

While she was holding their 15-month old child, Tudela allegedly pushed her, causing her to fall onto the bed. She said Tudela took the child and tossed him to the bed.

She took their son and ran to their neighbor's house, where she called 911 for police's help.

She said Tudela shouted profanities at her and told her that she's only CW and that

she should go back to the Philippines. CW stands for CNMI-Only Transitional Worker, a temporary working visa.

The wife said her husband is usually not like that when he is not drunk. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Manglona ordered the marshal and not Guerrero to serve the summons and complaint because Guerrero is proceeding in this case in *forma pauperis*, which is a designation given to someone who is without the money to pursue the costs of a lawsuit or a criminal defense.

Last July, Manglona dis-

missed Guerrero until Aug. 2, 2019, to cure the

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**LIVING**

From Page 1

shutting down. On top of that, as Sept. 30 draws closer, plane tickets are becoming more expensive each day.

One CW worker in the retail business, Princess (name withheld by request), who has been working on Saipan for 10 years, said that her company is on the verge of closing as there are 12 of them set to exit the CNMI. "Our situation is heartbreaking...here I am trying to build a life for me and my family back home and all of a sudden it will be cut," she said.

That's not to mean these workers can't return. There employers could bring them back once U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services approves their work permit. But there is no fixed time on how long USCIS will take to process a permit. These workers could be out of the CNMI for as long as three months.

"My family and I have no choice but to exit even if it is against our will," said IT expert Lee (name withheld by request). "It has been really hard as my children were

**RELIEF**

From Page 1

the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services medical examination for green card applicants.

Form I-693 is the Report of Medical Examination and Vaccination Record, which is required for those applying for green cards.

The form used to also accept the tuberculin skin test but that is no longer the case, leaving the IGRA test as the only one it will accept. The nearest site for such a test is in Honolulu, Hawaii. That would have required green card ap-

**USCIS: Still no update on CW regs**

**By ERWIN ENCINARES**  
erwin\_encinares@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has yet to release new guidelines for the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program regulations, 11 days before the new fiscal year.

Come Sept. 30, 2019, this would mark the second year of processing CW-1 petitions based on previous regulations. Some aspects of the CW-1 visa were improved through Public Law 115-218, or the NMI U.S. Workforce Act of 2018 in July of that year.

"USCIS does not have any new guidance on the CW-1 program at this time," an agency representative told *Saipan Tribune* in a statement

born here, they don't know any other home and two out of my three children are already in school and now here I am taking them out of that environment."

Lee, whose application is in the recruitment report stage, is not sure if her renewal that petition will make it to the CW processing, which is why her

yesterday. "As previously announced, all CW-1 filings for fiscal year 2020 must include an approved temporary labor certification [TLC] from the U.S. Department of Labor."

Besides the TLC requirement for CW-1 petitions, employers should continue to follow current USCIS regulations.

P.L. 115-218 ultimately extended the CW-1 program for an additional 10 years. Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) co-sponsored the bill, which was championed by U.S. Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT).

The legislation also allowed long-term workers to apply for a three-year CW permit; however, with no USCIS regulations govern-

ing in the U.S. territories..." the letter noted.

ing this, CNMI employers remain in the dark about how to apply for this.

The lack of clarity on the legislation also left several employers reluctant in filing their CW-1 renewal petitions, since there were new regulatory requirements such as the prevailing wage determination and the TLC processing. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres told *Saipan Tribune* in a previous interview that his office is already looking at the numbers of employers who reportedly started the CW renewal process late.

According to the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, a mass exit of over half of the CNMI's total workforce would result in economic devastation since U.S.-eligible co-workers would also lose their jobs if businesses shutdown.

will go to waste," Lee said.

The state of the CW renewals became especially fraught this year when Public Law 115-218 set new rules that require employers to secure Temporary Labor Certifications from the U.S. Department of Labor before they can apply for CW renewal petitions.

the opportunity to help the future green card applicants," Jacar said.

The Commonwealth Health Care Corp. confirmed that the CNMI's only hospital, the Commonwealth Health Center, is not able to perform the IGRA tests. CHCC spokesperson Zoe Travis informed *Saipan Tribune* that the nearest U.S. location to avail of this test is in Honolulu, Hawaii. Travis also noted that Guam does not have this lab test.

For more information about the IGRA sample collections, contact the DLS at (670) 235-0233 or visit their office at the Tan Siu Lin Plaza in Beach Road.

Caroline Ferriday. In 1958, Ferriday rallied American support to bring a group of Polish survivors from the notorious Ravensbruck concentration camp to America for rehabilitation. Dong is an eighth grader at Jericho Middle School in Jericho.

The \$3,000 second place prize went to Priscilla Sanchez, Jacqueline Vega, Kevin Jackoby, and Charles Brooks from New Technology High School in Napa, California. Their project, "Eileen Nearne: An Unsung Hero," is a documentary about 23-year-old Nearne, a S.O.E. British Intelligence Officer who managed to transmit 105 messages, revealing Germany's plans back to Great Britain, before being captured.

New York middle school student Michelle Dong won the \$6,000 grand prize for his entry, "Caroline Ferriday and the Ravensbruck Laptops," which tells the incredible story of philanthropist

This further prolonged the CW renewal processing, according to Abigail (full name withheld by request). "USDOL mentioned that they would do their best to expedite the prevailing wage survey and TLCs. Unfortunately, there are cases where TLCs take more than 60-90 days turnaround time... and this is normally just the amount of time to do a whole process of Job Vacancy Announcement and the USCIS application proper."

Abigail, who has been working in the CNMI for four years, believes the CNMI government should be asking USCIS to extend all CW renewal cut-off from Sept. 30 to Oct.

30 or more to offset the lost time for the additional process with USDOL.

"This would then give the employers more time to process the USCIS CW application proper," she said.

In a previous interview, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said he requested for an extension of the CW application process but is also aware of the late applications. Torres also wrote USCIS last August asking for a dialogue on options that are available to CNMI employers in processing their CW applications.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

**MAN-MADE**

From Page 1

Lou Leon Guerrero, USVI Gov. Albert Bryan Jr., American Samoa Gov. Lolo M. Moliga, and Puerto Rico Gov. Wanda V. Garced in a letter to congressional leaders dated Sept. 12, 2019, that called for fair, equitable healthcare coverage for territories—similar to what is available to the 50 U.S. states and District of Columbia.

The territorial governors cited the following advantages when Medicaid funding in the territories is fair: Eliminate the arbitrary cap on annual federal Medicaid funding; increase the federal matching rate for the territories' Medicaid expenditures; update hospital reimbursements' and increase funding for prescription drug coverage to low-income seniors, the letter noted.

This comes as both federal funding provided to U.S. territories under Public Law 115-123, or the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, and the Affordable Care Act—also known as ObamaCare—expire on Sept. 30, 2019.

"This reversion to the earlier status quo will have grave implications for approximately four million Americans living in the territories," the letter stated.

**DEAD**

From Page 2

guidance and counsel of Santos, San Nicolas said.

San Nicolas said Gacayan's filing of the amended petition to administer the estate now correctly identifies the sibling heirs, which, in turn, allows for any potential creditors to have a 60-day window to ascertain and file, if necessary, claims against any heirs.

Any creditor claim includes Gacayan as well as Gacayan's company. "Such an opportunity is not prejudicial—it is fair," San Nicolas said.

David's six siblings are opposing Gacayan's request to remain as administrator.

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"This would then give the employers more time to process the USCIS CW application proper," she said.

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ing in the U.S. territories..." the letter noted.

All five governors of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the CNMI signed off on the letter.

"If Congress does not act before Sept. 30, 2019...our enrollees may lose their Medicaid coverage and access to compensated care aimed at treating life-threatening disease and conditions and preventing needless deaths," the letter noted. "It is our hope that Congress will work with the U.S. territories to reverse course and resolve the Medicaid funding cliff. Failure to do so will constitute a man-made disaster and a blot on the human rights record of the United States."

The letter took note of the recovering USVI and Puerto Rico, which were hit by hurricanes Irma and Maria in September 2017. It also took note of Super Typhoon Yutu, which struck the CNMI late October 2018, referring to Yutu as the "strongest storm to hit American soil in over 30 years."

"Losing their medical insurance is the last thing our vulnerable population needs as they face the ongoing impact of these violent storms on local economies and on their physical and mental health," the letter stated.

The Philippine-based siblings who are listed as heirs, through counsel Charity R. Hodson, asked the court to deny Gacayan's amended petition to serve as administrator. Instead, the heirs want to substitute Christopher G. Imbo, a family friend of David's family and a resident of the CNMI, as the new administrator.

Hodson said that Gacayan has no interest in David's estate, is not an heir of the estate, and has already engaged in repeated breaches of fiduciary duty in the time that he has served as the estate's administrator.

David, who hails from Pampanga, the Philippines, died at the age of 60. His remains were brought to the Philippines last November.

**GES**

From Page 1

said that the students' documentary showed how Gabaldon used his ability to speak Japanese to help the U.S. forces capture Japanese soldiers by convincing them that they were surrounded. He also used his linguistic skills to stop many Japanese people from jumping off Banzai Cliff. His actions led to the capture of 1,500 Japanese soldiers and saved countless lives.

The students gathered information from primary resources and used strong multimedia skills to create this documentary, the announcement added.

Of particular note, Loken said, is that the students tried to obtain sources other than the internet and actually got to meet and talk with Guy Ga-

baldon's son as he was interviewed by the students.

"This project was mostly about letting the students do more project-based learning, instead of using the textbook since the competition required students to utilize primary resources like conducting interviews. ...I believe that the real quality of learning came as soon as they knew how to find these primary resources," Loken said.

Camacho said that each of the students did research on certain aspects of Gabaldon's life and started to make scripts after, as all five narrated the documentary. The students were also responsible for creating the video as they were given the opportunity to choose the pictures for the documentary.

One challenge that Gamboa recognized was analyzing the

information that was given to them, since putting them together took some time.

The students were able to complete the documentary by the last week of classes last school year, and Loken was able to turn in the documentary right before the July 1 deadline.

LMC's Discovery Award provides U.S. and international students in grades 4 through 12 a unique opportunity to use their creative talents to develop projects that feature Unsung Heroes from history, demonstrating one person's power to make a positive change in the world.

New York middle school student Michelle Dong won the \$6,000 grand prize for his entry, "Caroline Ferriday and the Ravensbruck Laptops," which tells the incredible story of philanthropist

Caroline Ferriday. In 1958, Ferriday rallied American support to bring a group of Polish survivors from the notorious Ravensbruck concentration camp to America for rehabilitation. Dong is an eighth grader at Jericho Middle School in Jericho.

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## Man arrested for allegedly burglarizing van at Grotto

On Sept. 12, 2019, at about 4:04pm, the CNMI Department of Public Safety received a 911 call reporting a burglary incident at the Grotto dive spot in Marpi.

Officers dispatched to the scene met with the caller—an employee of a tour company—at the scene, who told them that he was making his way toward the company van when he noticed an unknown individual standing on the driver's side step and reaching in through the driver's window.

As the caller walked closer toward the van, he noticed that the driver's window was shattered, allowing the unknown male access. The caller then confronted the suspect, who was startled and quickly jumped off the van, dropping two bags on the pavement.

The suspect was described as 5'10" tall, slim built, with bald-like short hair, light skin complexioned and several missing front teeth. The suspect was wearing a red long-sleeved shirt, a military-style pair of long pants, and a pair

of black shoes.

The suspect quickly walked away from the van, holding a socket wrench. The suspect told the victim that it was not him who broke the van's window, that it was someone in the jungle. The victim followed the suspect to his vehicle, a silver Toyota RAV4, which was parked near the company van. The suspect got in and locked himself inside the RAV4. The victim called the suspect out to talk but the suspect sped away.

The victim called 911 stating the license plate of the silver Toyota RAV4. The vehicle

was later found to be a rental vehicle. Further investigation revealed the vehicle was rented to Calistro Crisostimo.

On Sept. 13, 2019, detectives met with the victim and showed him a photo lineup of six individuals with similar features as Crisostimo. Within a few seconds the victim

pointed at the photo of Crisostimo and identified him as the suspect who broke into the company van.

On Sept. 17, 2019, at 10:08am Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho signed the arrest warrant for Crisostimo for the charges of burglary, theft, and criminal

mischief. With bail set at an amount the court finds suitable to fit the charges.

At about 11:41am on Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2019, detectives arrested Crisostimo in Lower Base and brought him to the Department of Corrections where he was booked and detained. (PR)

## Inspections for pest breeding sites start today

The Bureau of Environmental Health will be going into the many villages on Saipan starting today, Sept. 19, to inspect and remove debris that could become breeding sites of pests, technically called "vectors."

Vectors include mosquitoes and rodents, as well as animals that carry disease.

The inspections will be carried out by BEH, which is under the Commonwealth Health Care Corp., together with the Saipan Mayor's Office, Bureau of Environmental & Coastal Quality, Department of Public Lands, and Zoning Office.

According to a BEH statement, the current outbreaks of dengue in neighboring Pacific islands and the recent

travel related cases on Saipan have shown a need for proactive outreach and education in the community. Furthermore, consistent rainfall within the past months has created conditions around the island that are perfect for mosquitoes to breed, especially the species that breed in containers such as Aedes.

The inspections will begin in Koblerville, San Antonio, Afetna, and Chalan Kanoa, before moving northward.

BEH inspectors will, with the owner's permission, inspect houses and yards for potential vector breeding sites and advise residents on proper disposal procedures for debris, as well as distribute educational information on mosquito prevention and control.

The public is advised to comply with Saipan Dog Control regulations by tying up or otherwise restraining dogs for the safety of the inspectors.

Residents may contact the Mayor's Office for assistance in the removal of debris such as lumber, tin, and tires.

The Saipan Mayor's Office can be reached at (670)234-620.

For further information, contact the BEH at 670-664-4870/2/3 or email john.tagabuel@dph.gov.mp. (PR)

### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

#### Pro-life walk/roll on Sept. 27, 2019

Grace Christian Ministries Navy Hill is inviting the public to join them for a candlelight prayer walk/roll on Friday, Sept. 27, at 5:30pm, at the Minachom Attdao. Its purpose is to pray over the many needs of the island related to the issue of abortion. After the worship songs and prayer there will be a walk/roll to Quartermaster Road then back to Minachon Attdao. (PR)

#### Guam Soil and Water Conservation District board meeting set

The Northern Guam Soil and Water Conservation District Board will meet on Sept. 23, 2019, at 2pm at the Adelup Governor's conference room in Anigua' for the election of board officers. All government and NGO partners and farmers are invited to attend. (PR)

#### MHS Class of '81 reunion meeting set

This is to inform all Marianas High School 1981 graduates that the reunion meeting originally set for Thursday, Sept. 26, has been postponed and reschedule to Friday, Sept. 27, 2019, starting at 6pm at the TechNic Gaming Center above Sherwin Williams and across Bank of Hawaii on Middle Road. (PR)

#### Zoning closed on Sept. 20

The Saipan Zoning Office will be closed on Friday, Sept. 20, 2019, from 7:30am to 4:30pm for a professional development and training workshop for its staff. Regular office hours will resume on Monday, Sept. 23, 2019, at 7:30am. (PR)

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
RFP NO.: RFP19-BECQ/DEQ-131**

**SUBMISSION DATE: OCTOBER 07, 2019 TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

**"SEDIMENT SAMPLING AT 303(D) LISTED WATERSHED STREAM DISCHARGES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE 2013 CNMI SURFACE WATER QUALITY MONITORING PLAN FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL COASTAL QUALITY, DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE SUBMITTED VIA-EMAIL TO MR. LARRY MAURIN BY EMAIL AT larrymaurin@becq.gov.mp. NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS SEPTEMBER 23, 2019.** RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PERSPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAIC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ELI D. CABRERA  
ADMINISTRATOR, BECQ

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON  
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL  
RFP NO.: RFP19-GOV-136**

**SUBMISSION DATE: OCTOBER 15, 2019 TIME: 09:30 A.M.**

**"MULTI-DISCIPLINARY PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY SERVICES FOR THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF MILITARY AFFAIRS"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP IS DUE **NO LATER THAN 04:00 P.M., LOCAL TIME, SEPTEMBER 30, 2019** TO **MS. GLENNA SP REYES**, VIA E-MAIL TO **glenna.sp.reyes.ao@gmail.com**. ALL RESPONSES TO THIS RFP SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL POTENTIAL PROPOSERS.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAIC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RALPH DLG. TORRES  
GOVERNOR

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON  
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

/S/ GLENNA SP REYES  
SA, MILITARY AFFAIRS

**MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122  
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC  
POST OFFICE BOX 5222  
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950  
TEL.: (670) 234-6547  
FAX: (670) 234-9537**

**ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF**

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT  
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

BANKPACIFIC, LTD., )  
PLAINTIFF )  
-V- )  
MATTHEW A. OOKA, )  
RITA M. OOKA, ) CIVIL ACTION  
AND THE SMALL ) NO. 13-0238  
BUSINESS )  
ADMINISTRATION, )  
DEFENDANTS. )

#### NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on August 15, 2019, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants Matthew A. Ooka and Rita M. Ooka in and to the following property:

**Legal description of the property:** Lot no. 330 R 12, situated in Sinapalo II, Northern Mariana Islands, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat no. 330 R 02, dated March 13, 1992, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 92-858, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

**Total area of the property:** 871 square meters

**Known encumbrances:** The property is subject to a right of redemption in favor of the Small Business Administration, described as below.

**Date, Time, and Place of Sale:** The sale will be held on Friday, September 27, 2019, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public. A copy of a title insurance report for the property is available to any prospective bidder upon request.

**Terms and Conditions of Sale.** The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

Sale of the subject property is subject to the redemption right of the Administrator of the Small Business Administration of the United States of America pursuant to Title 28, United States Code, Section 2410(c). The United States of America shall be allowed to bid at the sale, and if successful, may pay with United States Treasury check(s).

Dated, this 28th day of August, 2019.

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

**Juan T. Lizama  
Attorney at Law  
P.O. Box 501508  
Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel. (670) 234-7220/483-2662**

Attorney for Petitioner

#### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

) CIVIL ACTION  
IN RE THE ) NO. 19-0275-CV  
MATTER OF ) NOTICE OF  
THE ESTATE OF: ) HEARING/NOTICE  
ANTONIO ) TO CREDITORS  
BABAUTA ) Date: October 3, 2019  
CAMACHO, ) Time: 10:00 am  
Deceased. ) Judge: Joseph N.  
              ) Camacho

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that on Thursday, October 3, 2019, at 10:00 am in the Superior Court in Susupe, Saipan, MP, the petitioner, Joyce Camacho Villagomez, will petition the court for Letters of Administration of the **Estate of Antonio Babauta Camacho**.

Any objection to such Petition for Letters of Administration or any claim towards the estate may be sent to the Petitioner's attorney of record, **Juan T. Lizama**, whose address is: P.O. Box 501508, Saipan, MP, 96950.

Dated this 5th day of September, 2019.

/s/ Judge Camacho, Joseph Norita

**Juan T. Lizama  
Attorney at Law  
P.O. Box 501508  
Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel. (670) 234-7220/483-2662**

Attorney for Petitioner

#### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

) CIVIL ACTION NO.  
IN RE THE ) 19-0276-CV  
MATTER OF THE ) NOTICE OF  
ESTATE OF: ) HEARING/NOTICE  
REMEDIOS ) TO CREDITORS  
SABLAN ) Date: October 3, 2019  
CAMACHO, ) Time: 10:00 am  
Deceased. ) Judge: Joseph N.  
              ) Camacho

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that on Thursday, October 3, 2019, at 10:00 am in the Superior Court in Susupe, Saipan, MP, the petitioner, Joyce Camacho Villagomez, will petition the court for Letters of Administration of the **Estate of Remedio Sablan Camacho**.

Any objection to such Petition for Letters of Administration or any claim towards the estate may be sent to the Petitioner's attorney of record, **Juan T. Lizama**, whose address is: P.O. Box 501508, Saipan, MP, 96950.

Dated this 5th day of September, 2019.

/s/ Judge Camacho, Joseph Norita

# Wanted: Managing director for Cannabis Commission

With the CNMI Cannabis Commission officially in business, among its first priorities are not only to promulgate the rules and regulations for cannabis use in the Commonwealth, but to start hiring staff to operate the CNMI's newest industry.

The commission is right now looking for a managing director and the ideal candidate is someone who is either already in the CNMI or former residents who have gone abroad to pursue college or obtain more work experience.

Upon being hired, the selected applicant must live on Saipan in order to carry out duties necessary to efficiently run industry operations.

The commission looks for-

## SUV flips on its side in collision

A car collision involving two sports utility vehicles last Tuesday evening on Middle Road in Gualo Rai resulted in one of the cars flipped on its side.

*Saipan Tribune* learned from witnesses that an SUV leaving Megabyte Saipan was turning south to join the Middle Road traffic when the accident happened.

Another SUV running along Middle Road—a white Toyota 4 Runner—did not see the former make the turn and tried to avoid colliding with it, causing it to collide instead with a blue Nissan Rogue and the flip to its side.

Eyewitnesses said that police officers had to flip the SUV in order to move it from blocking the road, while the other SUV sustained damage on its front, resulting in the

ward to providing a platform for entrepreneurs to take part in the islands' economic system as well as create jobs for residents. "Ensuring adequate controls for daily operations of the new industry are in place to enhance public safety and build community trust through fair administration and enforcement are high on the commission's initiatives," said Nadine Deleon Guerrero, newly-elected chairwoman for the CNMI Cannabis Commission.

The managing director will be the head of the administration of the commission and will be responsible for the overall administration and supervision of the cannabis and

hemp licensees and others, including the management and supervision of staff. Compensation will be commensurate with education and work experience; however, pursuant to Public Law 20-66, and as amended by Public Law 21-5, compensation may not exceed \$70,000 per annum. The commission wants to hire a managing director at the first rollout of rules and regulations in order to ensure his or her involvement from the start and to allow him or her to provide input.

Interested applicants for the position are required to have

the following minimum qualifications:

1. A bachelor's degree from a U.S. accredited educational institution; and

2. Five years of work experience in professional, administrative, or management in government or private sectors; and

3. Good ethical and moral character; and

4. Not having been convicted of a crime in any jurisdiction of the United States, or any foreign country carrying a minimum sentence of imprisonment of more than

six months, excepting traffic offenses.

Additionally, those applying for the position shall not have any interest, directly or indirectly, in any business under the jurisdiction of the commission.

"The commission's goal is to provide jobs for our local people and generate revenue to improve our standard of living in the CNMI. The only way we can accomplish this is to come together as a community and work toward building an industry that can sustain itself not only through the pres-

ence of tourism but through the participation of our local community. By educating our youth, and as adults, by using responsibly through adhering to regulations and the law, we can succeed," said Deleon Guerrero.

All interested and qualified individuals are asked to submit a cover letter with an updated résumé to hr@cnmi-cannabis.org.

Deadline to submit an application is Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2019.

Screening of applications are expected to begin immediately. (PR)



Saipan Centennial Lions Club, 2018 ICC

JOIN DCRM FOR  
THIS YEAR'S

2019  
INTERNATIONAL  
*Coastal* CLEANUP

SATURDAY  
SEPTEMBER 21

DURING  
THE 2018  
ICC, THE  
CNMI

HAD  
1,532  
VOLUNTEERS

CLEANED  
OVER  
50  
LOCATIONS

COLLECTED  
9,180  
POUNDS  
OF TRASH

"HARNESSING THE POWER OF PEOPLE  
TO FIGHT OCEAN POLLUTION"

The International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) is the world's largest single-day cleanup event with the goal of collecting and documenting trash littering our coastlines and waterways. Volunteers from states and territories throughout the U.S. and over 100 countries worldwide come together each year and participate in the cleanup event near them.

SIGN UP TODAY AT  
[WWW.DCRM.GOV.MP](http://WWW.DCRM.GOV.MP)

For more information, contact the ICC Coordinators:  
Colleen Flores at [cflores@dcrm.gov.mp](mailto:cflores@dcrm.gov.mp)  
Mallory Muña at [\(670\) 664-8300/10/16">mmuna@dcrm.gov.mp](mailto:mmuna@dcrm.gov.mp)



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**  
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

**INVITATION TO BID (ITB)**  
**ITB19-CHCC/ELC-003**

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 18, 2019**      **TIME: 10:00 AM**

**"LEASE VEHICLE - COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION  
- EPIDEMIOLOGY AND LABORATORY CAPACITY (ELC)"**

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)/INVITATION TO BID (ITB) FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [[WWW.CHCC.GOV.PT](http://WWW.CHCC.GOV.PT)]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP/ITB. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA  
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORAZON P. ADA  
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**  
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

**INVITATION TO BID (ITB)**  
**ITB19-CHCC/IT-BEH-004**

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 21, 2019**      **TIME: 10:00 AM**

**"IT EQUIPMENT - COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE  
CORPORATION - INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY/BUREAU OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH"**

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)/INVITATION TO BID (ITB) FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [[WWW.CHCC.GOV.PT](http://WWW.CHCC.GOV.PT)]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP/ITB. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA  
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORAZON P. ADA  
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S



Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan housekeepers pose for a souvenir picture at the 5th Annual Housekeeping Gala Night last Thursday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. This year's International Housekeeping Week was celebrated on Sept. 8-12, 2019.

IVA MAURIN

**By IVA MAURIN**  
iva\_maurin@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Hotel housekeepers were front and center at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Housekeeping Gala Night last Thursday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, with the Asia Pacific Hotel Inc. honoring them as "unsung heroes."

The gala was the culmination of the weeklong celebration of the International Housekeeping Appreciation Week, a global event that puts a spotlight on the important role housekeepers play in the tourism industry.

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan general manager Wendy Herring gave special recognition to Paulina Pascual, Fiesta's executive housekeeper, for bringing the international celebration to the islands when she first started working at the resort in 2015.

"You are the unsung heroes of the hotel. [With] the work that you do... day in and day



Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan general manager Wendy Herring opens this year's Annual Housekeeping Gala Night by heralding housekeepers as the unsung heroes of the hotel industry.

IVA MAURIN

out, with the beautiful smiles on your faces, please know that you are appreciated," Her-

ring said. During the entire week that ran from Sept. 8 to Sept. 12,

housekeepers were treated to breakfast, fun activities, and a tea and cake party.

Kanoa Resort general manager Martin Jambor underscored the pressures that housekeepers face in their day-to-day job. In many cases, they are required to clean 16 rooms per day, depending on the number of the tourists coming into the island.

"It is a hard job to clean the rooms," Jambor said, recalling he did that, too, as a trainee. He pointed out that people who stay in a hotel usually do not clean their room and make the bed in less than 10 minutes.

One of the housekeepers at the gala, Cherilyn Manalo, finds a sense of fulfillment in her job, recognizing that



Housekeepers performing at this year's Annual Housekeeping Gala Night last Sept. 12 at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, which served as the culmination of the weeklong celebration of International Housekeeping Week.

IVA MAURIN

guests, when treated well, would eventually bring to the island other tourists, which would help boost the economy.

Manalo, who used to have an office job, said, "I love the sense of having to make tourists feel like they have a home here on Saipan."

APHI, the umbrella group

that handles Century Hotel, Kanoa Resort, and Fiesta Resort & Spa (both in Saipan and Guam), has been leading the celebration of the International Housekeeping Week on the island for five years now, with a vision that other hotels on the island would follow suit.



Kanoa Resort executive Glenn Policare, left, and Kanoa Resort general manager Martin Jambor, right, square off in a fun game shortly after breakfast at the Kanoa Resort as part of the celebration of this year's International Housekeeping Week.

IVA MAURIN

## Power outage tomorrow on Navy Hill

There will be a scheduled power interruption on Friday, Sept. 20, from 3pm to 6pm, affecting Navy Hill.

This sectionalized outage on Feeder 1 will affect Navy Hill (Delgado Dr., WIC Clinic, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Kotdura Ln., Fitme Pl., Manehante Av., Sanitation Office Victoria Av., Mavoria Av., Isla Dr., Brilliant Star Montessori School, Fuetsa Lp., Documento Ln., Gurupu Dr., Dinana Ln., Rekto Dr., and Suheta).

No water well or waste-

water service area will be affected.

The purpose of this emergency power interruption is to de-energize utility lines and allow Commonwealth Utilities Corp. linemen to replace a rotted primary power pole and re-sag low primary lines in the Navy Hill village. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation>). (PR)

# Swing away for a 2019 Hyundai Kona to support JKPL

By IVA MAURIN  
iva\_maurin@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Play golf and maybe win a car, all while helping raise funds for the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. What's not to love about that?

To boost library services in the CNMI, JKPL is calling on golf enthusiasts to support the 4th Annual Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library Golf Tournament Fundraiser on Nov. 10, 2019, at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort's west course.

And to make joining the tournament more attractive, Triple J Saipan, Inc. is donating a 2019 Hyundai Kona as a hole-in-one prize, making it a diamond level sponsor.

Sean Ficke, general manager of Triple J Motors, said that

the company is "happy to be on the greens" with the 2019 Hyundai Kona. He encourages golfers "to register and swing away for this [hole-in-one] prize."

The tournament will be a 2-person scramble (men and women), low gross, and double Peoria format.

"The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library is consistently resourceful with their outreach programs," Triple J vice president of finance and administration Mike Sablan said.

"On behalf of the Jones family and Triple J Saipan, Inc. our donation is a token of our appreciation and partnership for the development of our island's youth."

Library director Erlinda C. Naputi expressed appreciation to Triple J Saipan, Inc. for

its continued support. "Triple J Saipan, Inc. continues to support the JKPL mission of enhancing the quality of life in our diverse community by providing opportunities for lifelong learning, by creating spaces and opportunities to connect and engage, and by fostering a love of reading and commitment to literacy," Naputi said.

Aside from the 2019 Hyundai Kona, Triple J Saipan, Triple J Motors, and its affiliate businesses also donated to the library \$2,000 in educational tax credit and \$500 in gift certificates to the Triple J Restaurant Group & Triple J Truckload Store.

Proceeds from the 4th Annual Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library goes to support the resource and col-



Triple J Motors general manager Sean Ficke and marketing manager Valentina Haberman pose with the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library staff led by technical services librarian Beth Demapan. Triple J donated a 2019 Hyundai Kona for JKPL's 4th Annual Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library Golf Tournament Fundraiser.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

lection development, circulation materials, and the free programs and services the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, the Bookmobile, the Tinian Pub-

lic Library, and the Antonio C. Atalig Memorial Library provide for the CNMI.

To support the fundraiser and for more information,

contact JKPL technical services librarian Beth Demapan or golf committee chair Joey Dela Cruz at 235-7315/235-7316/287-7161.

## READY FOR OCCUPANCY: 2-STORY COMMERCIAL BLDG NEAR BANK OF SAIPAN IN CHALAN KANOA

**1ST FLOOR, 4,728 SQ. FT.**

- **3-COMMERCIAL SPACES OF 1,100 SQ. FT. EACH**
- **1-COMMERCIAL SPACE OF 750 SQ. FT.**

**2ND FLOOR, 4,728 SQ. FT.**

- **10-UNITS STUDIO ROOMS**
- **WITH RECEPTION OFFICE**
- **LARGE HALL WAY**

**CALL NOEL:**  
**670-287-1914**  
**WHATSAPP**  
**+1-670-287-1914**



**NMPASI**

NORTHERN MARIANAS PROTECTION & ADVOCACY SYSTEMS, INC.

NMPASI hereby seeks comments and/or suggestions from the community on how to improve upon its proposed Statement of Goals and Priorities for fiscal year 2019 as follows:

### **Statement of Goals and Priorities** [Fiscal Year 2020]

**GOAL 1:** In fiscal year 2020, NMPASI will provide legally-based advocacy services on behalf of individuals with disabilities and their families in the CNMI.

**Priority 1.1:** In fiscal year 2020, NMPASI will facilitate appropriate advocacy and provide direct representation for (at least one more than FY 2019) eligible individuals with disabilities in the community.

**Priority 1.2:** In fiscal year 2020, NMPASI personnel will facilitate sufficient technical assistance to individuals with disabilities, family members of individuals with disabilities and other members of the general community at large.

**Priority 1.3:** In fiscal year 2020, NMPASI personnel will facilitate appropriate representation for un/underserved individuals with disabilities (including but not limited to those living in institutions or other housing facilities).

**GOAL 2:** In fiscal year 2020, NMPASI personnel will advance the understanding of and appreciation for protection & advocacy services and other disability-related issues in the CNMI.

**Priority 2.1:** In fiscal year 2020, NMPASI personnel will facilitate opportunities for the community to engage in learning about disability-related issues.

**Priority 2.2:** In fiscal year 2020, NMPASI personnel will promote the understanding of local and federal disability laws.

**Priority 2.3:** In fiscal year 2020, NMPASI personnel will foster local capacity in self-advocacy for individuals with disabilities.

**GOAL 3:** To enhance the quality of protection & advocacy services and the efficiency of the organization's operations.

**Priority 3.1:** Maintain an efficient, effective, and legally-compliant administrative operation.

**Priority 3.2:** Maintain an effective, diverse, and knowledgeable staff and board of directors.

**Priority 3.3:** Ensure sufficient and sustainable funding in support of organization's mission.

To submit comments and/or suggestions, please contact **NMPASI** at 235-7273/4 or at [www.nmpasi.org](http://www.nmpasi.org)

\*NMPASI, a local non-profit organization, administers grant funds from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)/Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS)/Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD), and the Human Resources Services Administration (HRSA), the U.S. Department of Education (DOE)/Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), and the Social Security Administration (SSA).

### **Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

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Telephone (670) 664-4282  
Fax (670) 235-5131

For Immediate Release  
Monday, September 16, 2019

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

The U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) is considering a request for Federal assistance from the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) to construct the Granular Activated Carbon Filtration Systems in I Fadang (Isley Field) and Obyan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), EDA is conducting an assessment of the potential of the proposed project to affect the environment and/or historic properties.

The project will install filter systems to treat and remove the perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) contaminants found in the ground water in the Isley Field and Obyan areas. The project will be located at the Isley Field near the Saipan International Airport and the Obyan well field south of the Saipan International Airport runway. Project information is available for review on CUC's website at [www.cucgov.org](http://www.cucgov.org).

If you have any information regarding potential impacts, environmental resources, or historic properties associated with this proposed project, please provide it in writing to:

Regional Environmental Officer  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Economic Development Administration  
915 Second Avenue, Room 1890  
Seattle, WA 98174  
[rdefato@eda.gov](mailto:rdefato@eda.gov)

Comments received at the EDA Regional Office by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on October 4, 2019 will be considered. A copy of the NEPA/NHPA decisional document will be available upon request at the above EDA Regional Office.

# Opinion

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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## EDITORIAL

### Climate change is already here. 2020 could be your last chance to stop an apocalypse

The world is drifting steadily toward a climate catastrophe. For many of us, that's been clear for a few years or maybe a decade or even a few decades.

But others have known that a reckoning was coming for much longer. A Swedish scientist first calculated in 1896 that adding carbon dioxide to the atmosphere could lead to warmer global temperatures. By the 1930s, scientists were measuring the increase, and in the late 1960s, they had documented the impact of melting ice in Antarctica. By 1977, Exxon-Mobil had recognized its own role in the warming of the ocean, the polar ice melt and the rising sea level.

Even after the facts became uncontestedly clear, the world did shockingly little to protect itself. In the first 17 years after the Kyoto protocol committed its signatories to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, global emissions continued to rise. Decades of studied ignorance, political cowardice, cynical denialism and irresponsible dithering have allowed the problem to grow deeper and immeasurably harder to solve.

But today, we are at an important turning point. The changing climate is no longer an abstract threat lurking in our distant future—it is upon us. We feel it. We see it. In our longer and deeper droughts and our more brutal hurricanes and raging, hyper-destructive wildfires. And with that comes a new urgency, and a new opportunity, to act.

Climate change is now simply impossible to ignore. The temperature reached a record-breaking 90 degrees in Anchorage this summer and an unprecedented 108 degrees in Paris. We can watch glaciers melting and collapsing on the web; ice losses in Antarctica have tripled since 2012 so that sea levels are rising faster today than at any time in the last quarter-century. Human migration patterns are already changing in Africa and Latin America as extreme weather events disrupt crop patterns, harm harvests and force farmers off their land, sending climate refugees to Europe and the United States.

It's often difficult to attribute specific events to climate change but, clearly, strange things are happening. In India, entire cities are running out of water, thanks, scientists say, to a dangerous combination of mismanagement and climate change. In Syria, the civil war that has killed hundreds of thousands of people and displaced more than 11 million is believed by many scientists to have been sparked at least in part by climate-related drought and warming. Closer to home, two invasive, non-native mosquito species that have the potential to transmit viruses, including dengue, Zika and yellow fever have recently been found in several California cities.

According to NASA, 18 of the 19 warmest years ever recorded have occurred since 2000. The last five years have been the hottest since record-keeping began in 1880. July set an all-time record.

It is late—terribly late—for action, but with some luck, perhaps it is not too late to avoid some of the worst impacts of climate change. In nations across the world, people finally recognize climate change as a top or very serious threat, according to the Pew Research Center.

At this point, the mission is no longer to avert or reverse climate change, but to mitigate its worst effects (by continuing

See CLIMATE on Next Page



## What now with Kavanaugh?

There are two kinds of people in this country today: Those who believe that men who are credibly accused of sexually assaulting or harassing women are perfectly appropriate candidates for the U.S. Supreme Court ... and the infuriated rest of us.

How else to explain reaction to a newly surfaced allegation of sexual misconduct against beer-loving Supreme Court Justice Brett M. Kavanaugh?

President Trump urged Kavanaugh to sue for libel and has urged the Justice Department to "rescue" Kavanaugh — how exactly that rescue would occur is not clear.

Top-tier Democratic presidential candidates are calling for Kavanaugh's impeachment. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, a front-runner, is advocating that both Trump and Kavanaugh be impeached, though that is unlikely.

Even if House Democrats were to bring articles of impeachment against Trump and/or Kavanaugh, the Republican-controlled Senate would certainly never vote to remove either from office. However, in the event that the House retains a Democratic majority and the Senate goes Democratic after the 2020 elections ... well, a girl can dream, can't she?

Kavanaugh cemented the court's conservative majority when he replaced former Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, a centrist who was often described as the quintessential swing vote.

Kavanaugh, confirmed by the narrowest margin in modern history, should never have been seated.

During his confirmation hearing, he shredded any pretense of judicial impartiality when he accused those who opposed his nomination of seeking "revenge on behalf of the Clintons" and "left-wing opposition groups."

His main accuser, research psychologist Christine Blasey Ford, testified that Kavanaugh assaulted her in a private home at a high school party in the presence of his friend Mark Judge. "Indelible in the hippocampus," she said, "is the laughter." The hippocampus is the part of the brain where trauma is encoded as memory.

To borrow that phrase from Ford, indelible in my hippocampus is a man whose nastiness to Democratic senators, red-faced sputtering and self-pity showed him to be utterly unsuited for the job of Supreme Court justice.

Those calling for his impeachment believe that he lied repeatedly during those hearings — about his drinking, about the meaning of words in his high school yearbook ("boof" and "devil's triangle") and about the alleged college assaults, among other things.

Given what we know about Kavanaugh, his sense of entitlement and his affection for beer, the new story about his drunken college misbehavior, contained in a just-released book by New York Times reporters Robin Pogrebin and Kate Kelly, is not even especially shocking.

In "The Education of Brett Kavanaugh," they write that in addition to a previously known claim that a drunken Kavanaugh exposed himself to a Yale University classmate named Deborah

**By ROBIN ABCARIAN**

Los Angeles Times



Ramirez, he is also alleged to have pushed his penis into the hand of a second female classmate during a drunken dorm party.

The classmate in the second case does not remember the incident, according to her friends, and declined to be interviewed by the reporters.

But a male classmate, Washington attorney Max Stier, who said he witnessed the event, contacted Delaware Democratic Sen. Chris Coons, who contacted FBI Director Christopher A. Wray, asking him to get in touch with Stier.

The FBI never contacted Stier, and who knows how many other potential witnesses are out there?

Why didn't the FBI properly investigate?

Because, as you probably recall, Trump and Senate Republicans restricted the time frame and limited the scope of the inquiry.

The resulting "investigation" was a sham.

If you think this was a singular event, don't be too sure. If given the chance, Republicans would surely rush through another Supreme Court confirmation, facts and investigations be damned.

Keep praying for Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

On the day that Kavanaugh was confirmed to the U.S. Supreme Court, Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One, "One of the reasons I chose him is because there is nobody with a squeaky-clean past like Brett Kavanaugh."

The president said this with a straight face (I presume) even after the country had been riveted a week or so earlier by Ford's testimony that when he was 17 and she was 15, Kavanaugh drunkenly pinned her to a bed, tried to undress her and ground his body against hers.

When she tried to scream, she claimed, he put his hand over her mouth.

"I thought he might inadvertently kill me," Ford said. "He was trying to attack me and remove my clothing." She said she was saved only because one of Kavanaugh's friends, Mark Judge, jumped on both of them and they all tumbled to the ground, whereupon she escaped.

Kavanaugh "categorically and unequivocally" denied the allegation. "I did not do this back in high school or at any time." Judge said he had no memory of the event and had never witnessed such behavior from his friend; he also authored a memoir that detailed his blackout drinking as a high school student.

As I noted during Kavanaugh's confirmation, Ford was far

See KAVANAUGH on Next Page

**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com); or through our website at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

## Why companies should hire disabled workers

I often think back to the time when I was waiting in the checkout line at mainland grocery store, and an elderly disabled man walked up to the end of the counter and started bagging my groceries for me. My initial reaction was to protest that I could do it because I didn't want to trouble him.

However, I stopped myself after realizing that this was his job, and he was more than capable of fulfilling the task that he had been hired for. This experience affected me in such a way that I stopped to consider that this store had given this man a wonderful opportunity that may have seemed an impossibility before.

Steve Bartlett, current chairman of RespectAbility, who co-authored the Americans with Disabilities Act when he was in the U.S. Congress, is quoted as saying: "Our nation was founded on the principle that anyone who works hard should be able to get ahead in life. People with disabilities deserve the opportunity to earn an income and achieve independence, just like anyone else." And, here at OVR, we wholeheartedly agree.

So what are some of the realized advantages? For starters, hiring people with disabilities gives any company a significant competitive advantage. It creates a more diverse workplace, which is highly attractive in this day and age. In addition, customers are more likely to trust you when they see that you are prioritizing the greater good over just the bottom line. I found myself much more likely to shop at this grocery store as opposed to its competitors based on the fact that this store seemed more willing to provide opportunities for people who may not otherwise have it.

Any business that clearly demonstrates its willingness to provide opportunities for marginalized groups is one where I would want to spend my money. If you had a disabled family member, or friend, who wanted to earn their own money, wouldn't you want them to have the option?

Many companies complain about the difficulty of hiring quality employees. Companies that have opened their applications to those who have disabilities have found an entirely fresh pool of talent who complement their workforce. To illustrate, disabled workers have proven to be more reliable and punctual, thereby increasing cost-effectiveness, while bringing many other positive qualities that employers can often be hard-pressed to find. It can also contribute to a more positive work environment overall. Not to mention, at OVR, it is our vision that individuals with disabilities are employed in competitive and integrated work settings, are empowered to make qualified decisions and informed choices, and are compensated fairly.

Another added bonus is that providing jobs for disabled persons can bring various tax benefits. To illustrate, the Internal Revenue Service offers a maximum tax credit range between \$1,200 to \$9,600 depending on the employee and length of employment. Moreover, the government often subsidizes costs incurred for improving disabled access, such as installing ramps and elevators.

Furthermore, there is a work opportunity credit that a business can apply for, which also helps to reduce costs. The objective is to achieve integrated employment—hiring workers with and without disabilities.

Not only does hiring more people with disabilities benefit your business, it also improves the overall quality of life for a typically disadvantaged population. While this benefit may be secondary, the significance of its impact should not be overlooked. It provides them with a stable income and a sense of security as well as boosts their self-confidence. In fact, it allows disabled individuals to belong to and have a greater sense of community, which has been a challenge in the past. They are just as capable as any other employee!

**By MARYANN BORJA-ARRIOLA**

Special to the *Saipan Tribune*

*Maryann Borja-Arriola is the director of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation.*



If you are hesitant to hire employees with disabilities, OVR offers a broad range of relevant resources to employers including disability employment training around:

- Disability awareness
- Sensitivity
- Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act
- Assistive technology assessments
- Information and referral to community programs
- Work experience training
- Manpower services through OJT

According to the CNMI Department of Commerce "2015 Statistical Yearbook" and the 2010 Census, only 37.5% of the CNMI's 1,753 individuals with disabilities were employed.

In fact, there are many companies who already have successful placements such as Ace Hardware, Joeten Enterprises, Commonwealth Health Care Corp., the Department of Finance, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Office of Indigenous Affairs, Pacific Islands Club, and the names continue. Will your organization be the next placement on this highly distinguished list?

As you can now see, there are many advantages that organizations can obtain by simply adding people with disabilities to their workforce. I hope that more companies will work with us to help 1,097 people with disabilities find consistent employment here in our beautiful CNMI.

## Suicide is not about dying

Individual that die by suicide do not want to die. They want the excruciating mental pain in their brain to stop. They want the feelings of hopelessness and helplessness to go away. They want despondency and despair to depart.

"Suicide prevention remains a universal challenge. Every year, suicide is among the top 20 leading causes of death globally for people of all ages. It is responsible for over 800,000 deaths, which equates to one suicide every 40 seconds." ([www.iasp.info](http://www.iasp.info))

### Why do people attempt suicide?

A suicide attempt is a clear indication that something is gravely wrong in a person's life. No matter the race or age of the person, how rich or poor they are, it is true that most people who die by suicide have a mental or emotional disorder." The most common underlying disorder is depression and 30 percent to 70 percent of suicide victims suffer from major depression or bipolar disorder. ([www.mentalhealthamerica.net](http://www.mentalhealthamerica.net))

Suicide is not a mental disorder, but one of the most important causes of suicide is mental illness—most often major depression or bipolarity.

### What is major depression?

"Depression is a mood disorder that causes a persistent feeling

of sadness and loss of interest. Also called major depression disorder or clinical depression, it affects how you feel, think and behave and can lead to a variety of emotional and physical problems. You may have trouble doing normal day-to-day activities, and sometimes you may feel as if life isn't worth living," according to an article on the Mayo Clinic website. ([www.mayoclinic.org](http://www.mayoclinic.org))

An episode of depression can be triggered by a stressful life event such as death of a loved one, a major change in finances, loss of employment, a divorce or separation, alcohol or drug problem, experiencing trauma or a crisis, and major life changes.

### What is bipolar disorder?

Bipolar disorder is a brain disorder that causes unusual shifts in mood, energy, activity levels, and the ability to carry out day-to-day tasks. Sometimes, a person with severe episodes of mania or depression may experience psychotic symptoms. Visit the National Institute of Mental Health for more info at [www.nimh.nih.gov](http://www.nimh.nih.gov).

### Suicide prevention and intervention

Brief interventions. 1. Safety planning: personalized safety planning has been shown to help reduce suicidal thoughts and actions. Patients work with a caregiver to develop a plan that

2017 ranks as the costliest year for severe weather events and climate disasters worldwide; in the U.S. there was more than \$300 billion in cumulative damage, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Obviously, the cost of dealing with inundated coastal areas—home to as many as 650 million people, or 8% of the world's population—will be extraordinarily high. And that's only one of the dangers on the horizon. We can expect people to be displaced by drought, river flooding, hurricanes and typhoons. Parts of the world can expect more food shortages, which some experts believe will lead in turn to political instability, civil unrest and mass

made jokes in his yearbook about anal sex ("boofing") and threesomes ("devil's triangle"), then lied to the Senate about what those terms meant.

I would never suggest that he be charged with a crime for his alleged high school and college misbehavior. That would be pointless all these years later.

**By MELISSA MARTIN**

Special to the *Saipan Tribune*

*Melissa Martin, Ph.D., is an author, columnist, educator, and therapist. She lives in the United States.*



describes ways to limit access to lethal means such as firearms, pills, or poisons. The plan also lists coping strategies and people and resources that can help in a crisis. 2. Follow-up phone calls: research has shown that when at-risk individuals receive further screening, a Safety Plan Intervention, and a series of supportive phone calls, their risk of suicide goes down.

September is National Suicide Month. #BeThe1To is the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline's message for National Suicide Prevention Month and beyond, which helps spread the word about actions we can all take to prevent suicide.

World Suicide Prevention Day is held annually in September and is organized by the International Association for Suicide Prevention. The purpose of this day is to raise awareness around the globe that suicide can be prevented.

There is help and hope for individuals with suicidal thoughts or plans. There is help and hope for individuals diagnosed with mood disorders. There is help and hope.

migration. The U.S. military rightly refers to climate change as a "threat multiplier."

Fighting the rise in temperature and sea levels will be tough. Our democracy doesn't encourage politicians to take bold stances; our economic system doesn't encourage companies to sacrifice profits for the common good. And we humans are understandably disinclined to live differently or to make sacrifices. But we must stop dawdling and forge ahead if we are to protect ourselves and our planet.

(c)2019 Los Angeles Times

## CLIMATE

From Page 10

to reduce emissions and slow warming) and to adapt to others. Adaptation might mean retreating from coastal developments as the seas rise or elevating roads and installing flooding pumps (as the city of Miami is already doing), or creating carbon sinks to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, all while continuing to try to curtail further emissions.

None of this is cheap or easy, but neither is the alternative.

## KAVANAUGH

From Page 10

more credible than Kavanaugh. She was a traumatized teenager at the time of the alleged attack; he was a beer-swilling jock who

The issue was and is whether a man with such an explosive and accusatory temperament, who has been credibly accused of sexually assaulting women—even if the bad behavior occurred decades ago—should have been rewarded with a lifetime appointment on the highest court.

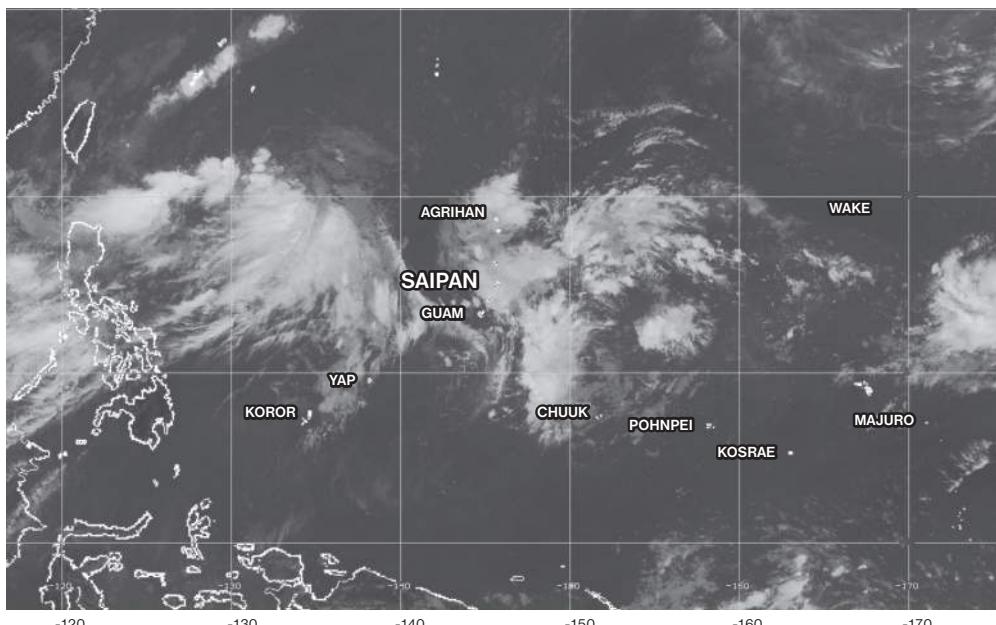
Surely our country deserves better.

# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. North winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Northeast winds 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
86°	78°	84°	77°	84°
77°	84°	84°	77°	84°
77°	84°	84°	77°	84°

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



**PICTURE TIME: 9:09 AM, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2019**

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite and radar show that showers and thunderstorms are still on their way in to the area from the east, but have jumped ahead of schedule. The leading edge of thick cloud cover is just now entering Saipan waters and will continue to spread across the Marianas from north to south. Similarly, increasing showers and thunderstorms are expected first at Saipan and Tinian this morning, Rota around midday, and at Guam by this afternoon.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

MICRONESIA		▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	85°	/	78°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	85°	/	78°
Yap	Thunderstorm	86°	/	80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	86°	/	80°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	87°	/	78°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	87°	/	78°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	88°	/	82°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	61°	/	48°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	82°	/	57°
Hong Kong	Sunny	91°	/	77°
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	90°	/	79°
London	Sunny	72°	/	50°
Los Angeles	Sunny	78°	/	63°
Manila	Thunderstorm	82°	/	77°
Melbourne	Windy	73°	/	48°
Miami	Thunderstorm	84°	/	78°
New York	Sunny	71°	/	57°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	84°	/	68°
Paris	Sunny	72°	/	50°
Busan	Windy	77°	/	72°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	81°	/	59°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	85°	/	61°
San Francisco	Sunny	68°	/	55°
Seoul	Cloudy	75°	/	61°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	75°	/	63°
Washington, DC	Sunny	75°	/	56°

## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.net](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.net)

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET			
4:37 AM	LOW TIDE	0.39	
10:54 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.70	
4:51 PM	LOW TIDE	0.90	
10:21 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.73	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:05 AM	6:16 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:15 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:14 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:13 PM
Monday	6:06 AM	6:12 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	9:52 AM	9:43 PM
Friday	-	10:43 AM	10:27 PM
Saturday	-	11:37 AM	11:16 PM
Sunday	-	12:33 AM	-
Monday	12:09 AM	1:30 PM	-

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2019

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:57am	Daily	UA174	7:30am	8:07am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4	UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4	7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7	7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily	7C3402	9:30am	3:10pm	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
7C3403	4:45am	8:35am	1, 2, 3, 5, 7	OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
7C3403	5:00am	8:30am	4	OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3403	5:00am	8:50am	6	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 6, 7
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	4, 7	7C3404	10:40pm	4:10am+1	3, 5
7C3401	4:10pm	8:10pm	1, 2, 3, 5, 6				
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (GHG)				HANGZHOU (GHG)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1	JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4	JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6	3U8645	8:10pm	3:10am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:50pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:0					

# Business

## The Bostonian Bakery remains true to Japanese roots

By BEA CABRERA  
beacabrera@saipan@gmail.com  
CORRESPONDENT

Soft, milky, and the right amount of sweetness are the words that best describe the bread from The Bostonian Bakery located on Gualo Rai, Middle Road.

It has been 24 years since the bakery opened shop on Saipan and owner Yayoi Kado-Obligacion believes that sticking to the true taste of Japanese bread is what makes them stand out.

"The original Bostonian Bakery opened in Kyoto, Japan 39 years ago and it was my late husband's (Masahiko Hokado) business. He worked hard alone... we actually met at the shop as I worked near the shop and I was a constant customer," Kado-Obligacion said.

"A year after we got married, we moved to Saipan in 1995... a friend who was already living here on Saipan encouraged us to open a bakery on island because there was not a lot of bakeries then catering to the Japanese market. There was a Japanese supermarket and inside was the only Japanese bakery so we saw the potential to open," Kado-Obligacion added.

Kado-Obligacion said it wasn't easy opening the bakery. "It was hard when we started as we had to import flour from Japan to keep the quality of our bread. We were able to find ways to get suppliers as maintaining the quality of our bread is our priority then and until now."

"Another obstacle was



The Bostonian Bakery now on its 24th year in operation on Saipan is located along Middle Road on Gualo Rai.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Bostonian Bakery's best-selling tiramisu cake.

community and tourists seek them and try their bread.

"We started with just French bread, croissant, and white Japanese bread but now we have expanded our products to also cakes and pastries... it is funny because in Japan, when you want to buy a cake, you go to a cakeshop and not a bakeshop which only had bread," she said.

"When our customers started asking if we had cakes, we knew there was a market and we started making them. Now, we supply cakes to different establishments like Café 670, Japanese bread to ABC store, and bread and pizza dough to Restaurant 360. Our tiramisu cake is very popular and we also do cakes for any occasion," she added.

Other products include cakes in different flavors like macha or green tea, chocolate, and strawberry, macaroons, cookies, and pastries.

Kado-Obligacion said that

she will never get tired of bringing to the community the true taste of what a Japanese bread should be. After all, she comes from Kyoto, a place in Japan known to consume most of the bread in all of Japan.

"All of our products taste like what I know about bread when I was still a small girl in Kyoto. Taste is very important and we will never sacrifice it. Now, when people want the Japanese taste for bread, we are top of their minds."

"Aside from quality, being humble helped me sustained this bakery over the years... I have been here on Saipan half of my life and part of that is dedicated to making bread that people appreciate and love," she added.

The Bostonian Bakery is open from Monday to Saturday from 6am to 4 pm. For inquiries, call (670) 235-4310 or go to their Facebook account: The Bostonian Bakery Saipan.



The Bostonian Bakery staff Herminia Campollo and Ruby Aboy and owner Yayoi Kado-Obligacion.

when my husband passed away in 2001. I was tasked to continue the business even though I didn't know how to make bread. My family in Kyoto was worried because I was here alone but with the help of my brother-in-law who was also a baker in Kyoto. He trained me little by little," she added.

Kado-Obligacion's persistence sustained her and the support she got from her fam-

ily led to the success of the Bostonian Bakery today. They used to only cater to the Japanese market but they have become a household name in the

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea on Wednesday dropped Japan from a list of countries receiving fast-track approvals in trade, a reaction to Tokyo's decision to downgrade Seoul's trade status amid a tense diplomatic dispute.

South Korea's trade ministry said Japan's removal from a 29-member "white list" of nations enjoying minimum trade restrictions went into effect as Seoul rearranged its export control system covering hundreds of sensitive materials that can be used for both civilian and military purposes.

The change comes a week after South Korea initiated a complaint to the World Trade Organization over a separate Japanese move to tighten export controls on key chemicals South Korean companies use to manufacture semiconductors and displays.

Seoul has accused Tokyo of weaponizing trade to retaliate

against South Korean court rulings ordering Japanese companies to offer reparations to South Koreans forced into labor during World War II. Tokyo's measures struck a nerve in South Korea, where many still resent Japan's brutal colonial rule from 1910 to 1945.

According to South Korean trade ministry, the new measures in effect mean it might take up to 15 days for South Korean companies to gain approvals to export sensitive materials to Japan, compared to the five days or less it took under a simpler inspection process provided for favored trade partners.

Lee Ho-hyeon, a South Korean trade ministry official, said the change would affect about 100 local firms that export items such as telecommunications security equipment, semiconductor materials and chemical products to Japan.

He said Seoul will work to minimize disruption to South Korean companies.

Japan for decades has enjoyed a huge trade surplus with South Korea, an economy that's much more dependent on exports. Many major manufacturers heavily rely on parts and materials imported from Japan.

But the dispute is taking a toll. Exports to South Korea from Japan fell 9.4% last month, Japan's Finance Ministry reported Wednesday.

The trade dispute between the neighbors erupted in July, when Japan imposed tighter export controls on three chemicals South Korean companies use to produce semiconductors and displays for smartphones and TVs, major export items for South Korea. It cited unspecified security concerns over Seoul's export controls.

A few weeks later, Japan dropped South Korea from its own trade "white list," triggered a full-blown diplomatic dispute that took relations between the U.S. allies to their worst in decades.

## Purdue Pharma to stay in business as bankruptcy unfolds

**WHITE PLAINS, N.Y.** (AP)—A judge cleared the way Tuesday for OxyContin maker Purdue Pharma to stay in business while it pursues bankruptcy protection and settlement of more than 2,600 lawsuits filed against it in a reckoning over the opioid crisis.

At the first court hearing since the Chapter 11 filing late Sunday, Purdue lawyers secured permission for the multibillion-dollar company based in Stamford, Connecticut, to maintain business as usual—paying employees and vendors, supplying pills to distributors, and keeping current on taxes and insurance.

The continued viability of Purdue is a key component of the company's settlement offer, which could be worth up to \$12 billion over time.

Under the proposal, backed by about half the states, the Sackler family, which owns Purdue, would turn the com-

pany, its assets and more than \$1 billion in cash reserves over to a trust controlled by the very entities suing it.

The Sacklers have also agreed to pay a minimum of \$3 billion of their own money to the settlement over seven years, as well as up to \$1.5 billion more in proceeds from the planned sale of their non-U.S. pharmaceutical companies.

"This is a highly unusual case in that the debtors have pledged to turn over their business to the claimants," U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Robert Drain said. "All of the claimants, in essence, have the same interest in maximizing the value of the business and avoiding immediate and irreparable harm."

Joe Rice, a lawyer for some of the plaintiffs, estimated it could be more than a year before the bankruptcy and settlement are finalized.

"This is not a sprint. We've

got a little bit of a marathon here," he said after the three-hour hearing in New York City's northern suburbs.

Purdue's bankruptcy filing has effectively frozen all litigation against the company, which its lawyers said has been spending more than \$250 million a year on legal and professional fees, but it has not stopped lawsuits against the Sacklers from moving forward.

New York Attorney General Letitia James, who is suing the Sacklers and opposes the proposed settlement, said last week that her office found that members of the family used Swiss and other accounts to transfer \$1 billion to themselves.

Purdue lawyer Marshall Huebner said he hoped states that are opposed to the proposed settlement could be persuaded to change their positions.

# Nation

## Number of abortions in US falls to LOWEST SINCE 1973



AP  
Anti-abortion activists march towards the U.S. Supreme Court during the March for Life in Washington Friday, Jan. 18, 2019.

**NEW YORK** (AP)—The number and rate of abortions across the United States have plunged to their lowest levels since the procedure became legal nationwide in 1973, according to new figures released Wednesday.

The report from the Guttmacher Institute, a research group that supports abortion rights, counted 862,000 abortions in the U.S. in 2017. That's down from 926,000 tallied in the group's previous report for 2014, and from just over 1 million counted for 2011.

Guttmacher is the only entity that strives to count all abortions in the U.S., making inquiries of individual providers. Federal data compiled by the Centers for Dis-

ease Control and Prevention excludes California, Maryland and New Hampshire.

The new report illustrates that abortions are decreasing in all parts of the country, whether in Republican-controlled states seeking to restrict abortion access or in Democratic-run states protecting abortion rights. Between 2011 and 2017, abortion rates increased in only five states and the District of Columbia.

One reason for the decline in abortions is that fewer women are becoming pregnant. The Guttmacher Institute noted that the birth rate, as well as the abortion rate, declined during the years covered by the new report. A likely factor, the report said, is

increased accessibility of contraception since 2011, as the Affordable Care Act required most private health insurance plans to cover contraceptives without out-of-pocket costs.

According to the report, the 2017 abortion rate was 13.5 abortions per 1,000 women aged 15-44—the lowest rate since the Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion. Following that ruling, the number of abortions in the U.S. rose steadily—peaking at 1.6 million in 1990 before starting a steady, still-continuing decline. The abortion rate is now less than half what it was in 1990.

Guttmacher noted that almost 400 state laws restricting abortion access were en-

acted between 2011 and 2017, but it said these laws were not the main force behind the overall decline in abortions. It said 57% of the nationwide decline occurred in the 18 states, plus the District of Columbia, that did not enact any new restrictions.

Between 2011 and 2017, the number of clinics providing abortion in the U.S. declined from 839 to 808, with significant regional disparities, the report said. The South had a decline of 50 clinics, including 25 in Texas, and the Midwest

had a decline of 33 clinics, including nine each in Iowa, Michigan and Ohio. By contrast, the Northeast added 59 clinics, mostly in New Jersey and New York.

Over that period, the abortion rate dropped in Ohio by 27% and in Texas by 30%, but the rate dropped by similar amounts in states that protected abortion access, including California, Hawaii and New Hampshire.

Areas with the highest abortion rates in 2017 were the District of Columbia, New Jersey,

Houston area preparing for heavy rain, flooding from Imelda

**HOUSTON** (AP)—Officials in the Houston area were preparing high-water vehicles and staging rescue boats Tuesday as Tropical Storm Imelda moved in from the Gulf of Mexico, threatening to dump up to 18 inches of rain in parts of Southeast Texas and southwestern Louisiana over the next few days.

The storm, which formed Tuesday, made landfall near Freeport, Texas, with maximum sustained winds of 40 mph.

Full Coverage: Tropical storms

Jeff Lindner, a meteorologist and director of flood operations for the Harris County Flood Control District in Houston, said the main threat from Imelda remained the potential for heavy rainfall and flooding.

sey, New York, Maryland and Florida. Rates were lowest in Wyoming, South Dakota, Kentucky, Idaho and Missouri—many women from those five states go out of state to obtain abortions.

One significant trend documented in the report: people who have abortions are increasingly relying on medication rather than surgery. Medication abortion, making use of the so-called abortion pill, accounted for 39% of all abortions in 2017, up from 29% in 2014.

"We have a few things in our favor. The ground is dry. It's been dry for a while here as we've come through summer," Lindner said. "The initial parts of this rainfall will go toward saturating the ground."

Ken Graham, director of the National Hurricane Center, said the Houston area, along with parts of the upper Texas coast and East Texas, could get "significant rainfall" through Thursday as the storm moves north. Imelda's rain bands were also stretching across into Louisiana.

Imelda was the first named storm to impact the Houston area since Hurricane Harvey, according to the National Weather Service. Harvey dumped nearly 50 inches (130 centimeters) of rain on parts of

### New parent charged in admissions scam, linked to \$400K bribe

**BOSTON** (AP)—A woman accused of paying \$400,000 to get her son into the University of California, Los Angeles, as a fake soccer recruit has become the 52nd person charged in a sweeping college admissions bribery scheme, according to an indictment unsealed Tuesday.

Xiaoning Sui, 48, of Surrey, British Columbia, was charged with a single count of conspiracy and fraud in the indictment unsealed in Boston's federal court. Authorities say she was arrested in Spain on Monday night and was being held there while authorities seek to extradite her to the United States.

Sui is the first person to be charged since June, when parent Jeffrey Bizzack pleaded guilty to paying \$250,000 to get his son into the University of Southern California as a fake athlete. Dozens of others were charged in March when authorities announced the investigation.

It was not immediately clear whether Sui had an attorney to speak for her. Prosecutors say Sui paid \$400,000 to a sham charity

operated by admissions consultant William "Rick" Singer as part of a scheme to have her son admitted to UCLA as a fake soccer recruit. Sui is accused of providing Singer her son's transcript and photos of him playing tennis.

Singer worked with Laura Janke, a former assistant soccer coach at USC, to fabricate an athletic profile depicting Sui's son as a top player on two private soccer clubs in Canada, prosecutors said. Both Singer and Janke have pleaded guilty.

the flood-prone city in August 2017, flooding more than 150,000 homes in the Houston area and causing an estimated \$125 billion in damage in Texas.

Lindner says while there is the potential for some isolated structure flooding in the Houston area, widespread house flooding from Imelda "doesn't look likely at this point."

But Lindner said that residents who live in flood-prone areas should still be mindful and take some extra precautions.

Some parts of Harris County and neighboring Galveston County had already received about 4 inches of rain through Tuesday afternoon.

The Galveston school district announced it was canceling classes on Wednesday.

# Asia

## Jihad, history link Taliban to al-Qaida in Afghanistan

**ISLAMABAD** (AP)—The Taliban promised Washington during months of negotiations that the United States would never again be attacked from Afghan soil. Such a pledge would have included al-Qaida, which planned the 9/11 attacks from inside Afghanistan.

Yet jihad, or holy war, and a shared history continue to bind the two militant groups, and there's no evidence of a break in relations between the long-time allies. U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo had said the Taliban agreed to cut ties with al-Qaida as part of peace negotiations, which President Donald Trump abruptly called off last week.

The al-Qaida leadership still vows allegiance to Taliban chief Maulvi Hibatullah Akhundzada, and al-Qaida has been growing stronger in re-

cent years, according to analysts and experts. The group has overcome setbacks from the establishment of a rival Islamic State affiliate in eastern Afghanistan and from U.S. drone strikes that had reduced its numbers.

The militants even established a subsidiary in the region called al-Qaida in the Indian Subcontinent, with ties to jihadi groups as far away as Myanmar.

"Since 2017, the group has recovered meaningfully," said Asfandyar Mir, a fellow at the Center for International Security and Cooperation at Stanford University.

"There is no discernible evidence of a break or disjunction between al-Qaida and the Taliban," Mir said in an interview with The Associated Press. "Instead, at least parts of the Afghan Taliban, such

as the Haqqani Network, and al-Qaida continue to actively collaborate."

In the 1980s, the U.S. was among those who encouraged hundreds of Arab fighters to travel to Afghanistan to fight alongside the Afghan mujahedeen, or holy warriors, against the former Soviet Union's forces there, financed in large part by Saudi Arabia. Today, many of these mujahedeen make up the Taliban leadership, while others are in power

in the U.S.-backed Afghan government. As the war was coming to a close in 1988, many of the Arab fighters united to follow the wealthy Saudi leader Osama bin Laden to create the jihadi group al-Qaida, which later sought to confront the U.S.

Over the years, al-Qaida has had many friends in Afghanistan, some of whom are now in high places, such as Abdul Rasool Sayyaf, a powerbroker in Kabul.

These links were detailed

by a retired CIA operative who worked closely with the U.S.-backed mujahedeen. The operative, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of his involvement in covert operations, said Sayyaf was the closest al-Qaida ally in Afghanistan.

Sayyaf even arranged Afghan citizenship for more than 800 Arab al-Qaida fighters after the mujahedeen took power in 1992. However, the mujahedeen soon turned their guns on each other, sending

the country into civil war that killed thousands. The corruption and killing gave rise to the Taliban movement led by mujahedeen, many of whom were village clerics, who used a repressive brand of Islam to establish their control. They took power in 1996 until their ouster in 2001.

The Taliban, despite 18 years of fighting the U.S. and its allies, now control or hold sway over half of Afghanistan and are at their strongest since the U.S. invasion.



AP

In this May, 30, 2013 file photo, insurgents suspected of being from the Haqqani network are presented to the media at the National Directorate of Security headquarters in Kabul, Afghanistan.

## HK activists appeal to US lawmakers to help movement

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Activists involved in the pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong appealed to U.S. lawmakers Tuesday to support their fight by banning the export of American police equipment that is used against demonstrators and by more closely monitoring Chinese efforts to undermine civil liberties in the city.

The activists, including several young people who have emerged as prominent figures in a leaderless movement, testified before a U.S. government commission set up by Congress to monitor human rights in China.

Republicans and Democrats on the Congressional-Executive Commission on China expressed their support Tuesday for protests that began in June with a since-withdrawn bill to extradite people arrested in the semiautonomous Chinese terri-

tory to China for prosecution.

"The heart of the discontent is that Hong Kong's political leaders do not represent and are not accountable to the people. Instead, Hong Kong's leaders are beholden to the Chinese government," said Rep. James McGovern, D-Mass.

The former British colony has been allowed certain autonomy and freedoms since it was returned to China in 1997 as a territory, with a "one country, two systems" policy that was supposed to ensure a smooth political transition.

Under U.S. law, the territory of Hong Kong receives special treatment in matters of trade, customs, sanctions enforcement, law enforcement cooperation and more. China has benefited from this, and lawmakers believe, used it to evade U.S. export controls and sanctions.

Rep. Christopher Smith,

R-N.J., has authored legislation that places Beijing on "annual notice" that they will lose Hong Kong's special economic and trade status if its autonomy continues to erode.

Smith's bill would also allow qualified Hong Kong residents to work or study in the U.S. even if they have been arrested for participating in nonviolent protests.

Earlier this month, Smith, McGovern and Rep. Ro Khanna, D-Calif., put forward legislation that would block U.S. company exports of police weapons and equipment to Hong Kong.

Joshua Wong, a Hong Kong activist who has been jailed multiple times, told lawmakers that Hong Kong is a "police state," where every demonstration is automatically an illegal assembly that results in violent police arrest and where protest-

ers gather amid a mounting Chinese military troop presence across the border.

"The present state of affairs reveals Beijing's utter inability to understand, let alone govern, a free society," Wong said.

Activist Sunny Cheung told lawmakers that young protesters face riot police carrying letters with their last will.

"They believe the only limits to their freedom are their deaths," Cheung said. "We fight for freedom from a sense of duty and dignity."

Denise Ho, a Hong Kong-based pop artist who has testified on the issue before the United Nations, told lawmakers that more than 1,500 people in Hong Kong, including a 12-year-old child, have been arrested. Many more have been injured by police tear gas, rubber bullets, water cannons and batons.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### 20 dead as truck falls off cliff in southern PH

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—Twenty villagers were killed and 14 others were injured when the truck they were riding in lost control and fell off a cliff Tuesday in a remote mountain village in the southern Philippines, police and the Red Cross said. Provincial police chief Joel Limson said the truck was negotiating a downhill road in Tboli town in South Cotabato province when its brakes apparently failed and plummeted down a ravine, pinning 15 people to death. Five other victims later died in hospitals, Limson said. Police, Red Cross volunteers and villagers retrieved the 15 bodies from the wreckage at the bottom of the ravine. Some of the dead included children returning from a family reunion at a beach resort, Limson said by phone. Red Cross leader Erwin Rommel del Carmen said several passengers survived by jumping off the wayward bus.

#### Popular panda on loan from China dies in Thai zoo

**BANGKOK** (AP)—Zoo staff in northern Thailand donned black and white clothing and observed a minute of silence Tuesday to mourn the sudden death of their popular male giant panda, who was on a long-term loan from China. Chuang Chuang collapsed Monday in his enclosure shortly after standing up following a

meal of bamboo leaves, said Wutthichai Muangmun, the director of the Chiang Mai Zoo. Speaking at a news conference on Tuesday, zoo staff said they found no sign of illness or injury on the 19-year-old panda's body, and that he had recently passed a health checkup. Kannikar Nimtrakul, the zoo veterinarian who oversees the panda enclosure, said the animals have a life expectancy of 14-20 years.

#### Asia Development Bank president to step down

**TOKYO** (AP)—The president of the Asia Development Bank, Takehiko Nakao, plans to step down early next year, the regional lender said Tuesday. Japan has usually headed the ADB as a top donor. Finance Minister Taro Aso said in a statement that Tokyo would soon nominate a "high-caliber candidate" as Nakao's successor. Aso said the government planned to recommend Masatsugu Asakawa, a former vice finance minister, as Tokyo's choice as "best qualified" for the job. Nakao, 63, will leave on Jan. 16, 2020. He took the ADB post in 2013 when his predecessor Haruhiko Kuroda was named Bank of Japan governor. He was re-elected to a second five-year term in 2016. He said he was leaving to make way for someone with "fresh ideas." Asakawa, 61, was Japan's top currency official for four years before becoming a government adviser in July.

Republicans and Democrats on the Congressional-Executive Commission on China expressed their support Tuesday for protests that began in June with a since-withdrawn bill to extradite people arrested in the semiautonomous Chinese terri-

# World

## High drama at UK Supreme Court in Brexit challenge case

LONDON (AP)—The British government and its opponents faced off Tuesday at the U.K. Supreme Court in a high-stakes legal drama over Brexit that will determine whether new Prime Minister Boris Johnson broke the law by suspending Parliament at a crucial time ahead of Britain's impending departure from the European Union.

**Full Coverage: Brexit**

As pro-EU and pro-Brexit protesters exchanged shouts outside the court building on London's Parliament Square, the government's opponents argued that Johnson illegally shut down Parliament just weeks before the country is due to leave the 28-nation bloc for the "improper purpose" of dodging lawmakers' scrutiny of his Brexit plans. They also accused Johnson of misleading Queen Elizabeth II, whose formal approval was needed to suspend the legislature.

The government countered that, under Britain's largely unwritten constitution, the suspension was a matter for politicians, not the courts.

Government lawyer Richard Keen said judges in a lower court had "nakedly entered the political arena" by ruling on the matter.

"The court is not equipped



Pro-Brexit demonstrators protest outside The Supreme Court in London, Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2019. AP

to decide what is a legitimate political consideration," he said.

Johnson sent lawmakers home on Sept. 9 until Oct. 14,

which is barely two weeks before the scheduled Oct. 31 Brexit day. A ruling against the government by the country's top court could force him to recall Parliament.

Johnson hasn't said what

he will do if the judges rule the suspension illegal. He told the BBC on Monday he would "wait and see what they say."

Keen promised that "the prime minister will take any necessary steps to comply with any declaration made by the court." But he had no answer when judges asked if Johnson might recall Parlia-

ment on the court's order, only to suspend it again.

"I'm not in a position to comment on that," he said.

The prime minister says Britain must leave the EU at the end of next month with or without a divorce deal. But many U.K. lawmakers believe

a no-deal Brexit would be economically devastating and socially destabilizing, and are determined to thwart him.

Lawyer David Pannick, who represents one of the campaigners challenging the government, told 11 Supreme Court judges that Johnson had

## Trump strains to balance diplomacy, military threat to Iran

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—The Trump administration tried to balance diplomacy with fresh talk of military action Tuesday in response to the fiery missile and drone attack on the heart of Saudi Arabia's oil industry—a strike marking the most explosive consequence yet of the "maximum pressure" U.S. economic campaign against Iran.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo was headed to Jiddah in Saudi Arabia to discuss possible responses to what U.S. officials believe was an attack coming from Iranian soil. President Donald Trump said he'd "prefer not" to meet with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani at next week's U.N. session but "I never rule anything out."

Iran continued to deny involvement in last weekend's attack on Saudi Arabia's Abqaiq oil processing plant and its Khurais oil field, a strike that interrupted the equivalent of about 5% of the world's daily supply. Saudi Arabia's energy minister said Tuesday that more than half of the country's daily crude oil production that was knocked out by the attack had been recovered and production ca-

pacity at the targeted plants would be fully restored by the end of the month.

The Trump administration was moving cautiously as it navigated competing impulses—seeking to keep up a pressure campaign aimed at forcing Tehran to negotiate on broader issues with the U.S. while deterring any further Iranian attacks and avoiding another Middle East war. It all was occurring as the administration deals with a host of other foreign policy issues and has no national security adviser, following the recent ouster of John Bolton.

Echoing Trump's warning from earlier in the week, Vice President Mike Pence said American forces were "locked and loaded" for war if needed. But he also noted that Trump said he doesn't want war with Iran or anyone else.

"As the president said yesterday, it's 'certainly looking like' Iran was behind these attacks," Pence said. "And our intelligence community at this very hour is working diligently to review the evidence."

The analysts' task was to connect the dots provided by satellite data and other highly

classified intelligence with physical evidence from the scene of the attack, which American-provided Saudi defenses had failed to stop.

Fourteen months before voters will decide on Trump's reelection, he is increasingly mindful of his 2016 campaign promises, including his pledge to bring American troops home after nearly two decades of continuous war.

But he also promised to apply fresh pressure on Iran, a pledge complicated by the latest apparent provocation. The at-times divergent messages from his administration, officials say, mirror internal staff divisions and even the president's own hesitations.

"You know, I'm not looking to get into new conflict," Trump said Monday, "but sometimes you have to."

Aides say he's taking a prudent pause.

"The president's being cautious, and if he were banging the gong today about Iran being the culprit, inevitably, without presenting the case to the American people, everyone would be saying he's a warmonger," said White House spokesman Hogan Gidley.

## Vatican seeks trial for seminarian accused of sex abuse

**ROME (AP)**—The Vatican's criminal prosecutor is seeking to indict a one-time seminarian accused of sexually abusing younger seminarians who lived inside the Vatican and served as altar boys at papal Masses in St. Peter's Basilica.

The Vatican said Tuesday an indictment was also being sought for the former rector of the Vatican's St. Pius X youth seminary, who is accused of aiding and abetting the crime.

The scandal at the Holy See's own youth seminary is particularly grave, given that the alleged misconduct occurred inside the Vatican's own walls and was covered up for years until it was exposed by Italian journalists in 2017. The indictment requests appear to mark the first time the Vatican has sought to prosecute a case of sex abuse occurring on its own territory.

In a statement Tuesday, the Vatican press office said the Vatican prosecutor was seeking an indictment against the Rev. Gabriele Martinelli, who was ordained a priest even though a former seminarian had told a series of bishops, a Vatican cardinal

and even the pope that Martinelli had repeatedly molested his roommate in the seminary dorm.

The whistleblower, Kamil Jarzemowski, was kicked out of the seminary after first reporting the abuse in 2012.

When he went public with his claims in 2017, he was promptly discredited by the Italian bishops and priests who had backed the seminarian.

The Vatican said the delay in the investigation was due to Vatican laws requiring the actual victim to have filed a complaint within a year of the abuse; it said Pope Francis made an exception and in July allowed the investigation to proceed.

The case concerns the closed world of the St. Pius X youth seminary, located inside a palazzo just a few steps from the Vatican hotel where Francis lives. It serves as a residence for about a dozen boys, aged 12 to 18, who serve as altar boys at papal Masses.

Jarzemowski says his roommate was first molested by Martinelli when both were minors, but that the molestation continued after the older seminarian turned 18.

Martinelli has never re-

sponded to the allegations; His order, the Opera Don Falchi which runs the youth seminary, did not respond to an email seeking comment late Tuesday.

The group previously lashed out at the allegations by Jarzemowski and other former students, calling them "mud," a "violent attack on the church" and nothing more than "calumny and falsifications."

The Vatican agreed to reopen the investigation after Italian journalists Gaetano Pecoraro and Gianluigi Nuzzi exposed the scandal in 2017.

Pecoraro said Tuesday he was pleased for the young men who came forward, and was "happy for the sense shown by the pope." He also praised his investigative news program Le Iene for going forward with his report despite pressure from the church to withdraw the boys' reports.

The scandal exposed how until this year, even Vatican City didn't have a clear-cut policy to handle abuse claims. After Jarzemowski reported the abuse, Vatican police, who have jurisdiction over the territory, were never called in to investigate.

# Focus

By MICHAEL R. BLOOD  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—A short walk from police headquarters in the heart of downtown Los Angeles, a cluster of bustling shops are openly selling packaging and hardware that can be used to produce counterfeit marijuana vapes that have infected California's cannabis market.

Bootleggers eager to profit off unsuspecting consumers are mimicking popular, legal vape brands, pairing replica packaging churned out in Chinese factories with untested, possibly dangerous cannabis oil produced in the state's vast underground market.

The result: Authentic-looking vape cartridges sold by unlicensed dispensaries and delivery services, along with rogue websites.

The deceptive rip-offs on the street could be linked to an emerging public health crisis. Hundreds of people across the U.S. have been sickened, mainly by vaping cannabis oil. Seven deaths have been reported, the latest on Monday in California's Tulare County.

Public health officials aren't sure what's causing the breathing issues, vomiting and other symptoms, but in California they say most patients reported purchasing vapes from pop-up shops or other illegal sellers that are a pipeline for counterfeit products.

The problem has gotten so pervasive that a major legal brand, Kingpen, is investing millions of dollars to redesign its packaging and product security. The Associated Press has learned.

The distributor for another major brand, Heavy Hitters, devotes a section of its website to report phonies and has hired a former federal prosecutor, Priya Sopori, to help the company deal with counterfeiting.

"The danger presented by counterfeit products is just a natural result of not having the money, the resources or the people power to enforce licensing," Sopori said. "Someone is buying this packaging, buying these cartridges and filling them with whatever. It's being sold as our brand."

## VAPES: A HEALTHIER OPTION?

As marijuana has gone mainstream, versions of e-cigarettes that vaporize high-inducing cannabis oil are one of the hottest-selling items, popular for those who don't want the smoke that comes from lighting up a joint. In addition to quickly delivering a high, there's a perception not supported by science that vaping is a healthier alternative to smoking.

In California's legal market, the world's largest, the state

# Knockoff pot vapes raise concerns for licensed companies

requires cannabis oil to be tested before being placed on the shelf for sale. For example, safety checks are made for the presence of 66 pesticides, mercury, lead and other heavy metals, and 21 solvents that could be used in the extraction process, when oil is pulled from cannabis.

But it can be hard for consumers to tell whether a product they're buying is made by a legitimate company. The phony packaging is convincing to the untrained eye, some even carrying bogus labels that appear to carry state-required test results. Most consumers probably wouldn't know the difference—until they vape it. The taste and THC level could be significantly different from the authentic product.

To add to the confusion, consumers can have trouble distinguishing legal dispensaries from unlicensed shops, which in Los Angeles sometimes operate in the same neighborhoods and appear indistinguishable.

"My biggest fear of coun-

terfeiting is people are getting an unsafe product, and illegal product, and think it's coming from our company, a legal company," says Bryce Berryessa, a board member of the California Cannabis Manufacturers Association whose company, Skunk Feather, produces concentrates and vape cartridges.

In another warning of consumer risk related to vaping, an Associated Press investigation Monday found that some operators are substituting illegal synthetic marijuana in vapes marketed as natural CBD, a chemical in cannabis that doesn't cause a high and promises mainly unproven health claims.

### A SOPHISTICATED EFFORT

In storefronts along Los Angeles' Boyd Street, a narrow commercial strip that has become a de facto bazaar for all things cannabis, there are displays of fake packaging and ready-to-fill vape cartridges for sale for popular brands including Heavy Hitters and Kingpen.

At one shop, the knock-off Heavy Hitter packages were selling for \$225 for 100 empty cartridges and boxes; the Kingpen sets sell for \$200. Counterfeit packaging and vape cartridges can

also be easily found with a few mouse clicks on Alibaba, China's largest online commerce company, and other websites. Once purchased, a counterfeiter would add cannabis oil that is widely available in the illicit market—one recent online ad was selling oil for \$6 a gram when purchased by the liter.

It's not clear who's behind all the different sales, and California law enforcement agencies have been overwhelmed by the widespread illegal market. In LA, the police department's chief focus is shuttering an estimated 200 illegal dispensaries across the city, not pursuing the source of fake vapes that might be for sale inside them, Los Angeles Police Department spokesman Josh Rubenstein said.

The state Department of Public Health, which regulates vape companies and other cannabis manufacturers, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Thus far, the state's illegal market has been operating largely unchecked, providing a ready market for fakes.

One recent study estimated that consumers are spending roughly \$3 in the state's un-

derground pot economy for every \$1 in the legal one. Last week, state regulators raided two unlicensed shops selling bogus marijuana vapes in Southern California, seizing nearly \$3 million in products. And in Wisconsin, authorities uncovered a 10-man operation that manufactured thousands of counterfeit vaping cartridges every day for almost two years loaded with oil containing THC, the high-producing ingredient in marijuana.

A likely link between copycat vapes and the stores that sell them was illustrated on Aug. 28. An illegal shop padlocked by police in Los Angeles had a display case prominently displaying Kingpen vapes. The company said it had no relationship with the shop, which was selling vapes at bargain-basement prices, meaning they were almost certainly fakes.

Kingpen has taken matters into its own hands, suing Chinese companies that produce fake packaging, sending scores of cease-and-desist letters to businesses that sell them and filing complaints with the state, only to see nothing change.

"There is no feedback. There is no action," said Danny Corral, Kingpen manufacturer Loudpack.

pack's vice president of sales.

Others have gone so far as to hire private investigators to locate illicit suppliers but find dead ends. That's led many in the industry to believe the counterfeit operations are an organized, sophisticated practice.

"We have every reason to believe that the same criminal gangs and cartels that dominate the global pharmaceutical counterfeit drug trade will similarly wrestle control of California's cannabis counterfeit drug trade," says a report compiled by Mammoth Distribution and submitted to state regulators. The company distributes Heavy Hitters.

### TAKING MATTERS INTO THEIR OWN HANDS

With counterfeits leaching into California's illegal vape market, the threat for licensed companies is not just millions in lost revenue. They worry their highly valued brands could be forever tainted if people get a mouthful of foul-tasting vapor, or even become sick, from a bogus product carrying their name.

To fight off rampant counterfeiting, the parent company of Kingpen is preparing to shelf millions of dollars in packaging and hardware, then spend millions more launching a redesigned product.

Loudpack is partnering with a technology company and this month plans to roll out an anti-counterfeiting program that will allow customers to verify the authenticity of Kingpen products purchased from licensed dispensaries in the state.

The rectangular paper box will be gone, replaced with a square, metal container. The company's logo remains, a rendering of a bearded, bloodshot-eyed king, but his face is partially obscured, like he is peering around a corner. There is also a unique code so consumers can validate the product.

In a statement, the company said it hopes the makeover will give consumers "peace of mind in knowing that any Kingpen product purchased legally is in fact authentic."



AP  
This Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2019, photo shows two examples of legal vape pen packaging, left, and on the right are two bootleg versions of the same brand of Kingpen cannabis vape cartridges, displayed in the offices of its parent company, Loudpack, in Los Angeles. Bootleggers eager to profit off unsuspecting consumers are mimicking popular vape brands, pairing replica packaging churned out in Chinese factories with untested, and possibly adulterated, cannabis oil produced in the state's vast underground market.

# Environment

By CHRISTINA LARSON  
AP SCIENCE WRITER

**OCHO RIOS, Jamaica**  
(AP)—Everton Simpson squints at the Caribbean from his motorboat, scanning the dazzling bands of color for hints of what lies beneath. Emerald green indicates sandy bottoms. Sapphire blue lies above seagrass meadows. And deep indigo marks coral reefs. That's where he's headed.

He steers the boat to an unmarked spot that he knows as the "coral nursery." "It's like a forest under the sea," he says, strapping on blue flippers and fastening his oxygen tank before tipping backward into the azure waters. He swims down 25 feet (7.6 meters) carrying a pair of metal shears, fishing line and a plastic crate.

On the ocean floor, small coral fragments dangle from suspended ropes, like socks hung on a laundry line. Simpson and other divers tend to this underwater nursery as gardeners mind a flower bed—slowly and painstakingly plucking off snails and fireworms that feast on immature coral.

When each stub grows to about the size of a human hand, Simpson collects them in his crate to individually "transplant" onto a reef, a process akin to planting each blade of grass in a lawn separately.

Even fast-growing coral species add just a few inches a year. And it's not possible to simply scatter seeds.

A few hours later, at a site called Dickie's Reef, Simpson dives again and uses bits of fishing line to tie clusters of staghorn coral onto rocky outcroppings — a temporary binding until the coral's limestone skeleton grows and fixes itself onto the rock. The goal is to jumpstart the natural growth of a coral reef. And so far, it's working.

Almost everyone in Jamaica depends on the sea, including Simpson, who lives in a modest house he built himself near the island's northern coast. The energetic 68-year-old has reinvented himself several times, but always made a living from the ocean.

Once a spear fisherman and later a scuba-diving instructor, Simpson started working as a "coral gardener" two years ago — part of grassroots efforts to bring Jamaica's coral reefs back from the brink.

Coral reefs are often called "rainforests of the sea" for the astonishing diversity of life they shelter.

Just 2% of the ocean floor is filled with coral, but the branching structures — shaped like everything from reindeer antlers to human brains — sustain

a quarter of all marine species. Clown fish, parrotfish, groupers and snappers lay eggs and hide from predators in the reef's nooks and crannies, and their presence draws eels, sea snakes, octopuses and even sharks. In healthy reefs, jellyfish and sea turtles are regular visitors.

With fish and coral, it's a codependent relationship — the fish rely upon the reef structure to evade danger and lay eggs, and they also eat up the coral's rivals.

Life on the ocean floor is like a slow-motion competition for space, or an underwater game of musical chairs. Tropical fish and other marine animals, like black sea urchins, munch on fast-growing algae and seaweed

Convincing lifelong fishermen to curtail when and where they fish and controlling the surging waste dumped into the ocean are trickier endeavors.

Still, slowly, the comeback effort is gaining momentum.

"The coral are coming back; the fish are coming back," says Stuart Sandin, a marine biologist at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, California. "It's probably some of the most vibrant coral reefs we've seen in Jamaica since the 1970s."

"When you give nature a chance, she can repair herself," he adds. "It's not too late."

Sandin is studying the health of coral reefs around

once among the world's most celebrated, with their golden branching structures and resident bright-colored fish drawing the attention of travelers from Christopher Columbus to Ian Fleming, who wrote most of his James Bond novels on the island nation's northern coast in the 1950s and '60s.

In 1965, the country became the site of the first global research hub for coral reefs, the Discovery Bay Marine Lab, now associated with the University of the West Indies. The pathbreaking marine biologist couple Thomas and Nora Goreau completed fundamental research here, including describing the symbiotic relation-

95% of the black sea urchins in the Caribbean, while overfishing ravaged fish populations. And surging waste from the island's growing human population, which nearly doubled between 1960 and 2010, released chemicals and nutrients into the water that spur faster algae growth. The result: Seaweed and algae took over.

"There was a tipping point in the 1980s, when it switched from being a coral-dominated system to being an algae-dominated system," Gayle says. "Scientists call it a 'phase shift.'"

That seemed like the end of the story, until an unlikely alliance started to tip the ecosystem back in the other direction

joined with local businesses, including hotel owners, to form a marine association and negotiate the boundaries for a no-fishing zone stretching two miles along the coast. A simple line in the water is hardly a deterrent, however — to make the boundary meaningful, it must be enforced. Today, the local fishermen, including Simpson and Bailey, take turns patrolling the boundary in the Interceptor.

On this morning, the men steer the boat just outside a row of orange buoys marked "No Fishing." "We are looking for violators," Bailey says, his eyes trained on the rocky coast. "Sometimes you find spearmen. They think they're

# Surprise rescue of Jamaica coral reefs shows nature can heal

that may otherwise outcompete the slow-growing coral for space. When too many fish disappear, the coral suffers — and vice-versa.

After a series of natural and man-made disasters in the 1980s and 1990s, Jamaica lost 85% of its once-bountiful coral reefs. Meanwhile,

fish catches declined to a sixth of what they had been in the 1950s, pushing families that depend on seafood closer to poverty. Many scientists thought that most of Jamaica's coral reef had been permanently replaced by seaweed, like jungle overtaking a ruined cathedral.

In Jamaica, more than a dozen grassroots-run coral nurseries and fish sanctuaries have sprung up in the past decade, supported by small grants from foundations, local businesses such as hotels and scuba clinics, and the Jamaican government.

At White River Fish Sanctuary, which is only about 2 years old and where Simpson works, the clearest proof of early success is the return of tropical fish that inhabit the reefs — as well as hungry pelicans, skimming the surface of the water to feed on them.

Jamaica's coral reefs were

the world as part of a research project called the "100 Island Challenge." His starting assumption was that the most populated islands would have the most degraded habitats, but what he found instead is that humans can be either a blessing or a curse, depending on how they manage resources.

The same lab also provided a vantage point as the coral disappeared.

Peter Gayle has been a marine biologist at Discovery Bay since 1985. From the yard outside his office, he points toward the reef crest about 300 meters away — a thin brown line splashed with white waves. "Before 1980, Jamaica had healthy coral," he notes. Then several disasters struck.

The first calamity was 1980's Hurricane Allen, one of the most powerful cyclones in recorded history. "Its 40-foot waves crashed against the shore and basically chewed up the reef," Gayle says. Coral can grow back after natural disasters, but only when given a chance to recover — which it never got.

That same decade, a mysterious epidemic killed more than

— with help from residents like Everton Simpson and his fellow fisherman Lipton Bailey.

The fishing community of White River revolves around a small boat-docking area about a quarter-mile from where the river flows into the Caribbean Sea. One early morning, as purple dawn light filters into the sky, Simpson and Bailey step onto a 28-foot motorboat called the Interceptor.

Both men have lived and fished their whole lives in the community. Recently, they have come to believe that they need to protect the coral reefs that attract tropical fish, while setting limits on fishing to ensure the sea isn't emptied too quickly.

In the White River area, the solution was to create a protected area — a "fish sanctuary" — for immature fish to grow and reach reproductive age before they are caught.

Two years ago, the fishermen

smart. We try to beat them at their game."

Most of the older and more established fishermen, who own boats and set out lines and wire cages, have come to accept the no-fishing zone. Besides, the risk of having their equipment confiscated is too great. But not everyone is on board. Some younger men hunt with lightweight spearguns, swimming out to sea and firing at close-range.

These men — some of them poor and with few options — are the most likely trespassers.

The patrols carry no weapons, so they must master the art of persuasion. "Let them understand this — it's not a you thing or a me thing. This isn't personal," Bailey says of past encounters with violators.

These are sometimes risky efforts. Two years ago, Jerlene Layne, a manager at nearby Bosobel Fish Sanctuary, land-

See JAMAICA on Next Page

# Life & Style

## Justice Department files lawsuit against Snowden over memoir

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—The U.S. government filed a lawsuit Tuesday against former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden, alleging he violated nondisclosure agreements by publishing a memoir without giving the government an opportunity to review it first.

The Justice Department is seeking to “recover all proceeds” from Snowden’s book, which was released Tuesday.

Snowden published his book, “Permanent Record,” without submitting it for a pre-publication review, in violation of non-disclosure agreements he signed with both the

NSA and the Central Intelligence Agency, the Justice Department alleges.

In his memoir, Snowden tells his life story in detail for the first time and explains why he chose to risk his freedom to become perhaps the most famous whistleblower of all time. It offers an expansive account of how he came to reveal secret details about the government’s mass collection of emails, phone calls and Internet activity in the name of national security.

Snowden was charged under the U.S. Espionage Act. He now lives in Russia in or-

der to avoid arrest.

“The United States’ ability to protect sensitive national security information depends on employees’ and contractors’ compliance with their non-disclosure agreements, includ-



**Snowden**

ing their pre-publication review obligations,” Assistant Attorney General Jody Hunt said in a statement.

We will not permit individuals to enrich themselves, at the expense of the United States, without complying with their pre-publication review obligations,” Assistant Attorney General Jody Hunt said in a statement.

The Justice Department is not attempting to limit the book’s distribution, but is asking a federal judge to allow the government to collect all the proceeds from the book. The book’s publisher was also named in the lawsuit. The government is suing the publisher to ensure that no funds are transferred to Snowden while the case plays out, the Justice Department said.

Snowden’s attorney, Ben Wizner, of the American Civil Liberties Union, said the book does not contain any secrets that haven’t previously been reported by news outlets.

### NYT faces questions over Kavanaugh story

By DAVID BAUDER  
AP MEDIA WRITER



**NEW YORK** (AP)—Between an offensive tweet and a significant revision, The New York Times’ handling of a new sexual misconduct allegation against Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh attracted almost as much attention as the accusation itself.

The story also gave President Donald Trump and his allies fresh ammunition in his campaign against the media, where the Times was already a favorite target.

The revelation that led several Democratic presidential contenders to call for Kavanaugh’s impeachment came in the 11th paragraph of a story labeled “news analysis” that ran in the Sunday opinion section. The story is based on an upcoming book by Times reporters Robin Pogrebin and Kate Kelly, “The Education of Brett Kavanaugh: An Investigation,” about the junior justice’s brutal confirmation battle last year.

Headlined “Brett Kavanaugh Fit In With the Privileged Kids. She Did Not,” the story was primarily about Deborah Ramirez, a Connecticut

woman who alleged that Kavanaugh, as a freshman at Yale in 1983, had pulled down his pants and thrust his penis at her. Kavanaugh has denied those claims.

Yet the authors said they’d uncovered a similar story involving Kavanaugh at another freshman-year party, where he allegedly exposed himself and friends pushed his penis into the hands of a female student. The story said former classmate Max Stier reported the incident to the FBI and senators as Kavanaugh’s nomination was being discussed, but the story said Stier would not discuss it with the authors. Kavanaugh would not comment on the story, a court spokeswoman said Monday.

After the story was posted online but before it was in the print edition, the Times revised the story to add that the book reported that the woman supposedly involved in the incident declined to be interviewed, and that her friends say she doesn’t recall the incident. While an editor’s note pointed out the revision, it did not say why those facts had been left out in the first place. A Times spokeswoman said no one was available for an interview on Monday.

**NEW YORK** (AP)—One morning last week in Boston, Victor Furtado woke up to a mailman’s knock. He was handed a little unmarked package.

“I opened it up here in my apartment and kind of looked at it for a second, hoping somebody would wake me up. I was shocked, completely blown away.”

Inside was word that the 19-year-old Virginia-bred musician had won the Steve Martin Prize for Excellence in Banjo and Bluegrass, which comes with a \$50,000 prize and a sculpture.

“I feel so honored to be considered,” he said.

But the award was somewhat bittersweet since Furtado—the youngest recipient of the prize given out every year since 2010—may also be the last. The prize is in danger of disappearing.

Martin said that he and the prize board members are overwhelmed by the sheer number of qualified musicians as bluegrass goes through a flowering.

“It became very difficult to keep pace, even with all our

great board members, of so many great players. In the ’60s, when I was first learning, great players were rare,” said Martin.

“Now, if you listen to a bluegrass channel, you listen to the banjo player and go, ‘Who’s that?’ And you’ve never even heard of him and they’re playing incredibly sophisticated stuff I couldn’t even pretend to do.”

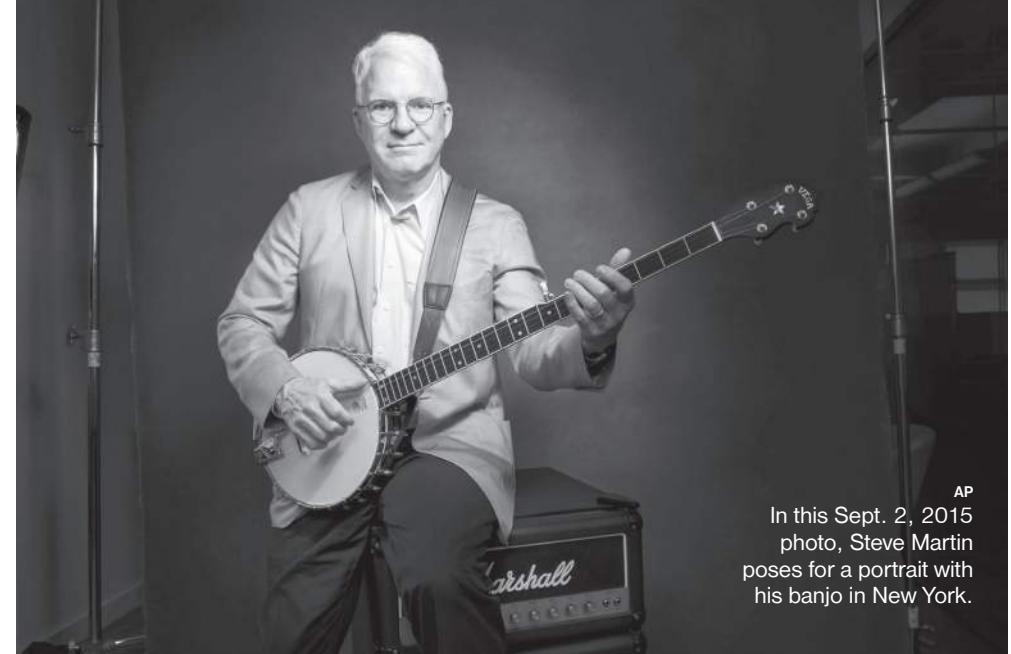
Martin hopes some entity

literally against the law to write.”

Snowden’s publisher, Macmillan, said in a statement that it was proud to publish Snowden’s “uncensored” story and disappointed that the government had decided to sue him.

In this Sept. 2, 2015 photo, Steve Martin poses for a portrait with his banjo in New York.

### Steve Martin’s bluegrass award faces uncertain future



great board members, of so many great players. In the ’60s, when I was first learning, great players were rare,” said Martin.

“Now, if you listen to a bluegrass channel, you listen to the banjo player and go, ‘Who’s that?’ And you’ve never even heard of him and they’re playing incredibly sophisticated stuff I couldn’t even pretend to do.”

Martin hopes some entity

might take over administrating the prize. Furtado, a student at the Berklee College of Music, hopes it somehow continues but is still grateful if he’s the last recipient.

“That was just another added layer of amazement, being that it might be the last one. That they ended up choosing me for it is just such an honor,” he said.

Martin and his wife, Anne Stringfield, dreamed up the prize after Martin noticed that some master musicians were still paying off their banjos. “I thought, ‘That’s got to change.’” The first draft of the prize’s statement of purpose was written on the back of a cocktail napkin. It’s the only prize of its kind and has an impressive monetary value.

training to help start the fish sanctuary at White River.

Belinda Morrow, a lifelong water-sports enthusiast often seen paddle-boarding with her dog Shadow, runs the White River Marine Association. She attends fishers’ meetings and raises small grants from the Jamaican government and other foundations to support equipment purchases and coral replanting campaigns.

“We all depend on the ocean,” Morrow says, sitting in a small office decorated with nautical maps in the iconic 70-year-old Jamaica Inn. “If we don’t have a good healthy reef and a good healthy marine environment, we will lose too much. Too much of the country relies on the sea.”

## JAMAICA

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ed in the hospital with a bruised leg after being attacked by a man she had reprimanded for fishing illegally in the sanctuary. “He used a stick to hit my leg because I was doing my job — telling him he cannot fish in the protected area,” she says.

Layne believes her work would be safer with more formal support from the police, but she isn’t going to stop.

“Public mindsets can change,” she says. “If I back down on this, what kind of message does that send? You have to stand for something.”

She has pressed charges in court against repeat trespassers, typically resulting in a fine

and equipment confiscation.

One such violator is Damian Brown, 33, who lives in a coastal neighborhood called Stewart Town. Sitting outside on a concrete staircase near his modest home, Brown says fishing is his only option for work — and he believes the sanctuary boundaries extend too far.

But others who once were skeptical say they’ve come to see limits as a good thing.

Back at the White River docking area, Rick Walker, a 35-year-old spearfisherman, is cleaning his motorboat. He remembers the early opposition to the fish sanctuary, with many people saying, “No, they’re trying to stop our livelihood.”

Two years later, Walker, who is not involved in running

the sanctuary but supports its boundary, says he can see the benefits. “It’s easier to catch snapper and barracuda,” he says. “At least my great grandkids will get to see some fish.”

When Columbus landed in Jamaica, he sailed into Oracabessa Bay — today a 20-minute drive from the mouth of the White River.

Oracabessa Bay Fish Sanctuary was the first of the grassroots-led efforts to revive Jamaica’s coral reefs. Its sanctuary was legally incorporated in 2010, and its approach of enlisting local fishermen as patrols became a model for other regions.

“The fishermen are mostly on board and happy — that’s the distinction. That’s why it’s

working,” sanctuary manager Inilek Wilmot says.

David Murray, head of the Oracabessa Fishers’ Association, notes that Jamaica’s 60,000 fishermen operate without a safety net. “Fishing is like gambling, it’s a game. Sometimes you catch something, sometimes you don’t,” he says.

When fish populations began to collapse two decades ago, something had to change.

Murray now works as a warden in the Oracabessa sanctuary, while continuing to fish outside its boundary. He also spends time explaining the concept to neighbors.

“It’s people work — it’s a process to get people to agree on a sanctuary boundary,” he says. “It’s a tough job to tell a

man who’s been fishing all his life that he can’t fish here.”

But once it became clear that a no-fishing zone actually helped nearby fish populations rebound, it became easier to build support. The number of fish in the sanctuary has doubled between 2011 and 2017, and the individual fish have grown larger — nearly tripling in length on average — according to annual surveys by Jamaica’s National Environment and Planning Agency. And that boosts catches in surrounding areas.

After word got out about Oracabessa, other regions wanted advice.

“We have the data to show success, but even more important than data is word of mouth,” says Wilmot, who oversaw

# Old-fashioned reporting most compelling aspect of ‘She Said’

By DONNA LIQUORI  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The behind-the-scenes book about how these reporters investigated Harvey Weinstein, is jarring, riveting and, for journalism, necessary.

The book's most compelling aspect is old-fashioned reporting—knocking on doors, obtaining records, clandestine meetings, tapping sources—and is the structure that holds up this book and is what earned The New York Times' Twohey and Kantor the 2018 Pulitzer Prize in Public Service.

“She Said” centers mostly around the Weinstein story and the accusations of sexual harassment and abuse by A-list actors like Ashley Judd and Gwyneth Paltrow, as well as those working for Weinstein at Miramax and the Weinstein Co. There are also pages dedicated to Donald J. Trump and Brett Kavanaugh and the accusations against them.

Because of the investigative reporters'

work, Weinstein was arrested and is now free on \$1 million bail, pleading not guilty to charges of rape and sexual assault. He has denied all charges of non-consensual sex. A trial is scheduled for January.

The number of lawyers mentioned in the book brought in to cover up, smear or throw off reporters is also impressive. Emails are included and they are incendiary, like the one from Weinstein's brother, Bob, confronting Harvey and urging him to get help.

“You have hurt many people with this behavior as well. You have picked on people and used your power over them. You have brought shame to the family and to your company through your misbehavior,” Bob Wein-

stein writes.

Kantor and Twohey persisted, tracking down stories and allegations even when the sources wouldn't go on the record. In writing the book, well after the story broke, they revisited those used for background and information, but weren't mentioned in the published stories. Here they are on the record. There's a cathartic last chapter in which accusers gather in California to discuss the #MeToo movement.

It's important to note the tactics that Kantor and Twohey used for the delicate task of communicating with accusers, often reticent about coming forward, especially “what to say in the very first seconds of a phone call with a stranger who might be a victim.” Twohey's approach for getting rape victims to share their experiences was “I can't change what happened to you in the past, but together we may be able to use your experience to help protect other people.” The pitch centered on helping others. “This was always the truest, best reason to talk to a journalist,” the women wrote in “She Said.”

One of the best scenes in the book is when they are getting ready to publish their bombshell story that ran on Oct. 5, 2017, that documented the accusations against Weinstein.

They present their findings to Weinstein and his people for a response. As the clock ticks toward their deadline, they worry about whether another organization will break it and if sources will be intimidated into withdrawing their accounts. Judd comes forward, agreeing to go on the record, during the wait:

“Jodi lost it, like a marathoner collapsing at the finish line. ... Weeping, Jodi searched for something to say to Judd that was equal to the moment but still professional.”

The nuts and bolts reporting techniques add to the drama: slugging their story in a cryptic way to keep it hidden even from other reporters, the back and forth with editors and figuring out how much time to give Weinstein and his team to respond.

The mechanics of the deadline reporting, with the knowledge that Ronan Farrow of The New Yorker (also a Pulitzer-Prize winner for his work on this subject) wasn't too far behind them, also makes for a compelling narrative.

Having this in all one place is overwhelming and historic and disturbing. Just the number of mentions of Weinstein in a bathrobe allegedly asking actresses and employees for a massage is difficult to take.

The depictions of Weinstein meeting with the Times reporters are also unsettling. Earlier in the book, Kantor approaches him in the lobby to introduce herself. He had just left a meeting to address accusations in another story regarding AIDS research funds. He is described as leaning into Kantor “with such intensity that she had to remind herself not to show any signs of intimidation.” He mocks their investigation and proposes to sit down at that moment. Kantor tells him that they would reach out when they were ready.

According to “She Said,” he tells her that he hadn't done those things, adding “I'm worse.”



## ‘He’s a sinner but no rapist’

**NEW YORK (AP)**—An attorney for Harvey Weinstein said on Tuesday that her client is not without sin—but he's also not “a rapist.”

Donna Rotunno, speaking on “CBS This Morning,” said she feels strongly that the evidence will exonerate the movie mogul of any criminal wrongdoing.

Weinstein is scheduled to go to trial in January on charges alleging he raped an unidentified woman in his Manhattan hotel room in 2013 and performed a forcible sex act on a different woman in 2006. He denies all accusations of non-consensual sex.

The trial will occur amid the backdrop of the #MeToo movement, which was fueled by dozens of allegations of sexual

misconduct against Weinstein.

“I'm not here to say he was not guilty of committing sins,” she said. However, “I don't think he's a rapist.”

“I think in many ways there are good things about #MeToo,” the lawyer said. However, the empowerment movement “allows the court of public opinion to take over the narrative” in a way that can't be corrected or challenged, which can result in the accused being “stripped of your rights.”

“It's really about making sure those issues don't cloud our ability to pick a fair jury,” she said.

No matter happens at trial, she said, Weinstein “will pay the biggest price there is,” because his life is ruined.



*You have hurt many people with this behavior as well.  
You have picked on people and used your power over them.  
You have brought shame to the family and to your company through your misbehavior.*

# Welcome to Orcland: Lord of the Rings to film in New Zealand

**WELLINGTON, New Zealand** (AP)—Amazon has announced it will film its upcoming television series

“The Lord of the Rings” in New Zealand, marking a return of the orcs, elves and hobbits to the country they

became synonymous with over the course of six movies directed by Peter Jackson.

Amazon Studios on Wednesday said it had found a majestic

location with world-class sets. It said production would begin in the city of Auckland over the coming months.

But Amazon wouldn’t re-

veal the extent of its plans for the series. It declined to say how much it plans to spend, how many seasons the show will run, or when it will debut.

Some have speculated Amazon could spend more than \$1 billion on the series as it looks to take on other streaming services like Netflix.

## NBC’s ‘Peacock’ to join streaming fray in April

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Comcast’s NBCUniversal said Tuesday that its upcoming streaming service will be called Peacock, in an homage to NBC’s logo. It will become the home for some of the company’s most popular shows, including “Parks and Recreation” and “The Office.”

That means both will be leaving Netflix, although not for several months after Peacock launches. As Disney, AT&T’s WarnerMedia and NBCUniversal prepare to debut their streaming services, they have been taking some of their TV and movie deals away from Netflix, the most popular streaming service. That augurs a future where consumers will have to hunt for their favorite shows and films among lots of different services. WarnerMedia for example on Tuesday also announced that HBO Max, its upcom-

ing streaming service, will have the U.S. rights to “The Big Bang Theory.” Netflix on Monday said it’s adding Seinfeld.

Peacock, like HBO Max, is launching in April, after Disney Plus and Apple TV Plus, which come out this November. NBCUniversal on Tuesday did not announce a price. The service will have ads.

Peacock’s lineup will include series like “30 Rock,” “Will & Grace,” and “Cheers,” although those won’t stream exclusively on Peacock, as well as original new movies and shows including reboots of “Battlestar Galactica” and “Saved by the Bell” and a new comedy series from “The Good Place” and “Parks and Rec” creator Mike Schur. NBCUniversal would not say what would be available at Peacock’s launch.

## Judge won’t return R. Kelly bond money to woman who paid it

**CHICAGO** (AP)—A judge in R. Kelly’s Illinois sexual assault case has refused to give \$100,000 in bail money back to a Kelly friend who paid it in February to secure the singer’s release from county jail.

The judge says papers that restauranteur Valencia Love signed clearly indicated she could lose the money.

Love’s lawyer said in court Tuesday that she didn’t know

when she paid 10% of a \$1 million bond that Kelly would be charged federally and land in federal jail.

John Collins said Love now fears losing all the money as charges against Kelly stack up.

But Judge Lawrence Flood read sections of papers Love signed warning the bond money could be used for Kelly’s legal fees and that she may never see it again.

**MONTGOMERY, Ala.** (AP)—Comedian Sacha Baron Cohen asked a federal judge to dismiss Roy Moore’s defamation lawsuit over a television segment that lampooned Moore in the wake of

sexual misconduct allegations.

Lawyers for Baron Cohen, Showtime Networks and CBS wrote last week in a joint court filing that Moore signed an agreement waiving all legal claims before appearing on the “Who is America?” segment. They said in the agreement

that Moore waived claims related to the program and anyone associated with it. They also said the segment was satire and is protected under the First Amendment.

This lawsuit conflicts directly with the long tradition of First Amendment protection for political parody and satire of public figures—especially where the satirical work ‘could not reasonably have been interpreted as stating actual facts about the public figure involved,’ lawyers wrote.

The segment ran after Moore faced misconduct accusations during the 2017 Senate race in Alabama. He has denied the allegations and is running for Senate again in 2020.

Moore said he was told he was receiving an award for supporting Israel when he agreed to appear on the show. Instead, Baron Cohen lampooned him as a possible pedophile.

In the segment, Baron Cohen appeared as faux counter-

terrorism instructor “Col. Erran Morad,” discussing bogus military technology, including a supposed pedophile detector. The device repeatedly beeped as it got near Moore, who sat stone-faced.

Moore argued that the waiver was fraudulently obtained because it did not disclose he was dealing with the comic.

Baron Cohen has faced past lawsuits over similar pranks, but those actions were tossed because the individuals had signed releases.

## Daughter-in-law is barred from family after robbery

**D**EAR ABBY: Our son is married to a beautiful girl, “Debra.” Several years ago, while we were away on vacation, she entered our home without our consent. (Our son has a key to our house.) She took several expensive, very personal and sentimental items, and we have no idea what she did with them because she denies doing it.

Abby, we have absolute proof it was her. Our son denied her involvement for a while until other suspicious things happened with some of their friends’ possessions. We all agree now it was Debra. Her mother sided with her until Debra stole from her, too.

At the time of our robbery and our accusation of her guilt, Debra said she would never talk to us or enter our house again. In addition to what she did to us, in the past she has also done some unscrupulous and hurtful things involving our grandchildren and other children. Because of this, she is no longer invited to any family events, and our son agrees, although he still loves her, and they are still married.

We sincerely forgive Debra for what she did, but we decided that it does not mean we must include her in our lives again. Years have passed, and she’s now trying to come back into the fold. Her presence would cause our grandchildren and their parents to stay away, which we definitely do not want. Debra and our son have no children.

She has never admitted her guilt or asked for forgiveness from us. Should we be open to allowing her back into our close-knit fold?

VICTIMIZED IN FLORIDA

**DEAR VICTIMIZED:** Has your son offered an explanation for his wife’s behavior? Could she have been on drugs or suffering from a mental or emotional problem at the time she acted out the way she did? Whether or not you should try to broker a peace in the family and “let her back into the fold” would depend upon what she did to the grandchildren and other children, whether it can be remediated with an apology and explanation to those she offended, and your family’s capacity for forgiveness.

**DEAR ABBY:** I have been married for three years. I’m not someone who initiates sex, but once in a blue moon I get the urge. Unfortunately, every time I do, my husband refuses and makes excuses. This year I tried twice, and after the last rejection, I exploded from anger.

I am so insulted! I never refuse him, even if I don’t feel like it, because I want to please him. When I told him how he made me feel, he apologized. He said he didn’t mean to hurt my feelings, but I feel awful. Now I no longer feel any sexual urges at all, and I’m no longer attracted to my husband.

**DEAR ABBY**

**By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*



What must I do? I can’t simply forget the feelings.

INSULTED WIFE

**DEAR INSULTED:** Because your husband is usually the one who initiates sex, it’s possible that this is the way he prefers it. That said, however, this issue could end your marriage if it isn’t dealt with. You and your husband should ask your physician for a referral to a licensed psychotherapist who can help both of you get to the core of this issue. Do not let this fester. Do it NOW!

*To order “How to Write Letters for All Occasions,” send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.*



# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

## Garfield®



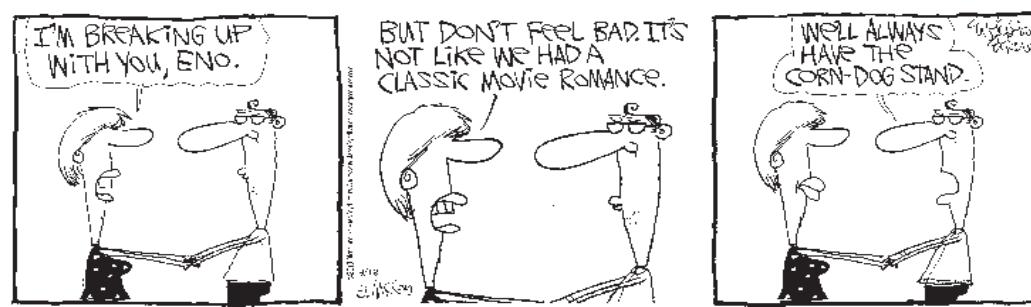
By Jim Davis

## Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

## The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

## CROSSWORD

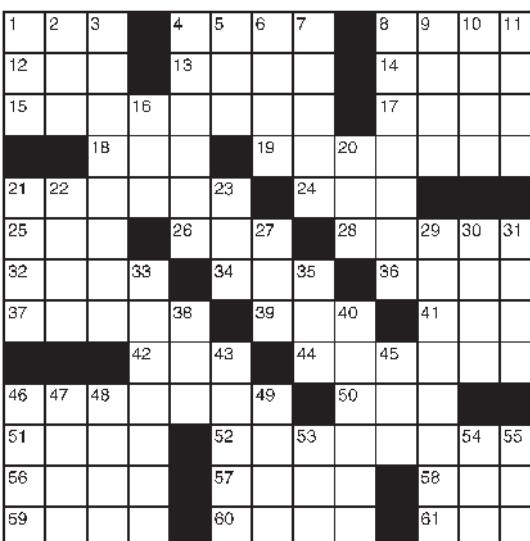
By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	41	Scepter	DOWN	11	Pulverize
1 Hot tub	42	Peruke	1 Salty	potatoes	
4 Locale	44	"Satires"	2 Standard	16 Glitch	
8 Throat clearer	46	poet	3 Military	20 Parched	
12 Listener	47	Arched	4 "Doctor	21 Bivouac	
13 Greet	48	facial feature	50 Costa —	22 Wheel-	ing's river
14 NYC gallery	49	feature	51 Sol	23 Second-	stringer
15 Symbols on sleeves	50	Costa —	52 Grower of	27 Promptly	
17 Rental units (Abbr.)	51	Sol	firs and pines	29 Parking-	lot siren
18 Wilder's "— Town"	52	Sandwich shop	53 Spruced up	30 Gator's	kin
19 Isaac Bashevis Singer's language	54	Grove	7 Commer-	31 Staffer	
21 Welsh dogs	55	units firs and pines	56 Jubilation	33 Rockies	
24 Before	56	57 Actor	57 Actor	35 "Unh-	unh"
25 Sashimi fish	57	O'Shea	58 Fish eggs	38 Knight's address	
26 Gaiety	58	59 Avenue	59 Middle name	40 Cowboy shows	
28 Desert plant	59	liners	9 Arizona	43 "I'm stumped!"	
32 Carriage	60	LAX postings	10 911	45 Game official	
34 "— voyage!"	61	postings	10 911	46 Rim	
36 Delhi dress	62	61 Cut the lawn	10 911	47 Holler	
37 Sits for a portrait	63	responders	10 911	48 Grade sch.	
39 Kids' card game	64	61 Cut the lawn	10 911	49 Legal document	
		ers	10 911	53 Days of yore	
			10 911	54 Kanga's kid	
			10 911	55 Kitten's cry	

Solution time: 24 mins.



Yesterday's answer 9-19



For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5956! 99¢ per minute, touchtone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**STUMPED?**

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kevin Zegers, 35; Alison Sweeney, 43; Jimmy Fallon, 45; Trisha Yearwood, 55.

**Happy Birthday:** Take time to learn the ins and outs of whatever interests you. Moving forward with additional knowledge, experience and drive will help you make the best decision for yourself. Don't be afraid to walk away from situations that are detrimental to your physical and mental well-being. Migrate toward people who lift you up, not ones who bring you down. Your numbers are 8, 14, 20, 24, 31, 35, 43.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): Take care of business, and leave nothing to chance. How responsible you are will influence your reputation and your chance to get a good recommendation when you need one. Having practical expectations will help ease stress and adapt to unexpected changes. **★★★**

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): If you distance yourself from a situation, you will get a different perspective that offers better insight into an offer someone makes. Don't be enticed by a lavish plan. Practicality will protect you from loss or being used. **★★★**

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): You know right from wrong. Refuse to let your intelligence be overruled by your emotions. Listen carefully, ask questions and don't feel pressured to make a decision if you aren't ready. A clear mind will help you avoid a poor choice. **★★★**

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): Trust in what you can see, not what you are told. Ask questions, and only support peo-

ple and causes that are meaningful to you. How someone treats you will be telling. Make changes that will lift you up, not bring you down. **★★★★**

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): An emotional incident will distract you from the truth and what you should be doing. Take a moment to rethink your plans as well as look closely at what others are doing and saying. Make personal goals your objective. Invest in yourself. **★★**

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): The more you know about the people you associate with, the better off you will be when negotiating what you want to unfold. A positive lifestyle change is within reach if you are willing to try something new. **★★★★★**

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A chance to broaden your outlook or to discover something about your family background will help you make wise decisions regarding your health or vocational future. Don't limit what you can do because someone is offering contrary advice. **★★★★**

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): An open mind will lead to knowledge and insight into how best to improve your life and your chance to advance. Lend a helping hand, and you'll be rewarded with information that will encourage you to redirect your energy. **★★★**

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Adapt your plans to something moderate and within your means. By choosing what's most doable, you will excel at a much faster pace as well as secure your position when the time is right to expand. Personal gain is within reach. **★★★**

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): Trust in what you can see, not what you are told. Ask questions, and only support peo-



## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COURTESY 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Embrace change, and don't look back. How you deal with your investments and health, and negotiating what you want will bring good results. Don't let anyone meddle in your affairs or take advantage of you. Do the work yourself and save. **★★★★★**

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Take your time, pay attention to detail, think matters through and handle situations personally. Put your mind at ease and take control, and you will be sure to get things done right the first time. Romance is encouraged. **★★★★**

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): Stick to the truth, and take care of your responsibilities before someone complains. Don't share your feelings just yet. You are best to take a wait-and-see approach to partnerships or when considering offering help to others. **★★**

**Birthday Baby:** You are selective, industrious and outgoing. You are curious and supportive.

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## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

7							5	
5			3			6		
7	6	1		9			4	
2			4					
1	9	8	3					
3		6			5			
1							8	

Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

1	9	8	4	6	7	3	5	2
4	6	5	2	1	3	9	8	7
3	2	7	9	5	8	6	1	4
9	3	6	8	2	5	7	4	1
2	5	1	6	7	4	8	9	3
7	8	4	1	3	9	5	2	6
6	4	3	5	9	2	1	7	8
8	7	9	3	4	1	2	6	5
5	1	2	7	8	6	4	3	9

Difficulty Level ★★★

## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUVELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backwords. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

JAPANESE SLIPPERS

Solution: 9 letters

C	B	L	T	R	A	D	I	T	O	N	S	S	T
H	O	A	A	G	R	E	T	E	①	A	C	E	C
I	E	M	R	C	G	L	M	E	②	K	H	S	E
L	Y	C	F	E	I	E	A	M	③	O	O	U	P
D	W	L	N	O	F	T	S	P	④	W	Y	O	W
R	E	K	T	A	R	O	N	L	⑤	A	S	R	L
E	A	I	T	A	R	T	O	E	⑥	N	T	S	B
N	R	R	D	C	E	T	A	T	⑦	D	R	O	I
M	A	I	K	U	N	N	B	A	⑧	I	E	I	K
U	N	P	O	S	H	L	A	E	⑨	N	S	C	I
G	N</												

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Smooth and finish surfaces of poured concrete, such as floors, walks, sidewalks, roads, or curbs using a variety of hand and power tools. Align forms for sidewalks, curbs, or gutters, patch voids, and use saws to cut expansion joints. Check the form alignment to make sure that they are properly constructed. Saw the form so that it adheres to the desired pitch and depth, and align them. Spread, level, and smooth concrete, using rake, shovel, hand or power trowel, hand or power screed, and float. Monitor how the wind, heat, or cold affect the curing of the concrete throughout the entire process. Mold expansion joints and edges, using edging tools, jointers, and straightedge.

**DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:**  
• High school Graduate;  
• At least 3 months experience  
• Knowledge in using hand and power tools.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tin Koshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site –marianaslabor.net

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

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(2) Heavy Equipment Mechanics - \$9.05 per hour, plus x 1.5 OT, Full time 40 hrs a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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Duties may include but not limited to: Maintaining, repairing and servicing a set of heavy equipment machines or vehicles (e.g., trucks, backhoes, excavators, bulldozers, cranes and compactors), completing inspections and preventive maintenance requirement, correcting vehicle deficiencies, making adjustments and alignments, and keeping records; ensure that all equipment is operating smoothly after repair and maintenance.

**DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:**

- High School Graduate;
- Minimum 2 years/24 months experience as Heavy Equipment Mechanic
- Valid CNMI Driver's license
- Current DOT physical examination

All interested applicants can send resume to info@itscorporation.net or visit our office P.O. Box 502273 Chalan Lau, Chalan Pale Arnold, Middle Road, Saipan, or contact us at telephone numbers (670) 235-6511 or (670) 285-4805 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Saturday. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's posted Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor website –marianaslabor.net

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**DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:**

- High School Graduate;
- Minimum 12 months experience
- Computer knowledge
- Valid CNMI driver's license

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**DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:**  
Duties may include but not limited to: Operating one or several types of power construction equipment, such as motor graders, bulldozers, scrapers, compressors, pumps, derricks, shovels, tractors, or front-end loaders to excavate, move, and grade earth, erect structures, or pour concrete or other hard surface pavement. May operate and maintain equipment in addition to do the job. Learn and follow local regulations, take actions to avoid potential hazards or obstructions, such as utility lines, other equipment, other workers, or falling objects. Locate underground services, such as pipes or wires, prior to beginning work. Make sure operations are safe and standards are met. Adjust hand wheels and depress pedals to control attachments, such as blades, buckets, scrapers, or swing booms.

**DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:**

- High School Graduate;
- At least 12 months experience
- Knowledge in operating and controlling power construction equipment and in monitoring of gauges, dials or other indicators to make sure that the equipment is working properly.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 502273 Chalan Lau, Chalan Pale Arnold, Middle Road, Saipan, or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor website –marianaslabor.net

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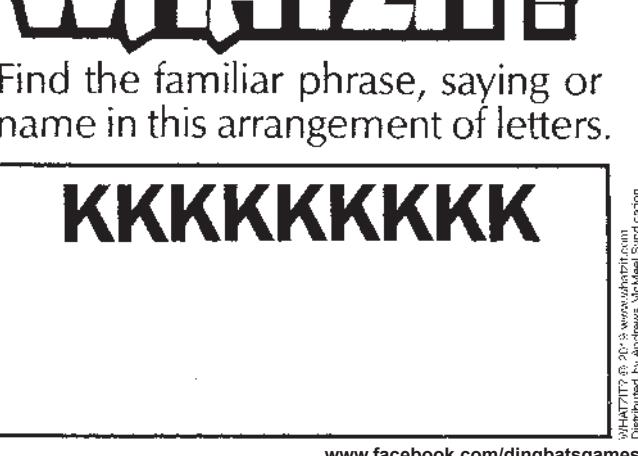
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# Giants bench Eli, will start rookie Jones at QB



**EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J.** (AP)—The inevitable has happened a lot sooner than anticipated.

The New York Giants have named rookie Daniel Jones their starting quarterback for Sunday's game against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, replacing Eli Manning.

"Eli and I spoke this morning. I told him that we are making a change and going with Daniel as the starter," Giants coach Pat Shurmur said in a statement released by the team. "I also talked to Daniel. Eli was obviously disappointed, as you would expect, but he said he would be what he has always been a good teammate, and continue to prepare to help this team win games. Daniel understands the challenge at hand, and he will be ready to play on Sunday."

Jones, 22, was the sixth overall pick in the draft in April out of Duke.

This will be only the second time since Manning initially became the starting quarterback by replacing eventual Hall of Famer Kurt Warner in 2004 that he will not start a regular season game. He was benched for one game in 2017 in favor of Geno Smith, and then-head coach Ben McAdoo and then-general manager Jerry Reese were fired the morning after Smith's one start in Oakland.

This isn't about benching Manning, one of the greatest to ever wear the Giants' uniform, because of what he can and can't do anymore.

This is about the direction of the franchise, and to that end, the most important player to that length for the Giants is Jones, and very little is to be gained with Manning losing games and his heir apparent standing on the sideline holding a clipboard.

Playing Jones is about the future of the Giants. Whether that results in more wins for a team that is 0-2 for the sixth time in seven seasons remains to be seen, and in some ways, that isn't the priority.

The sooner everyone embraces that, the sooner the Giants can get out of their own way and start building toward better days.

"Ultimately, this is a move that I felt was best for this team at this time," Shurmur said. "I have said it since I got here, I am very fond of Eli. His work ethic, his preparation, his football intelligence. All those attributes are as good as I have ever seen in a player."

As for Manning, the two-time Super Bowl MVP quarterback said Monday his interactions with Shurmur



**AP** New York Giants quarterback Eli Manning (10) fumbles the ball as he is tackled behind the line of scrimmage during the second half of an NFL football game against the Buffalo Bills, Sunday, Sept. 15, 2019, in East Rutherford, N.J.

After watching tape, Mariota said staying out of third-and-long would help. They have converted only 3 of 20 third downs, and Mariota has been sacked four times in each of the first two games.

The fifth-year quarterback struggled against the Colts, appearing to miss wide-open chances to check down to a nearby receiver and avoid a couple sacks.

Blame Mariota trying to be too aggressive.

"Part of it was trying to make a big play," Mariota said. "I felt we needed a spark and instead I didn't check the ball down, and it was on a couple sacks. And that's stuff that I got to do a better job of. But at the same time, you just got to have an aggressive mindset and see what you can do."

Mariota, 28-29 as a starter, is 33 of 52 for 402 yards with four touchdown passes and no interceptions in a pivotal season for a quarterback in the final year of his rookie contract.

The Titans team, from coach Mike Vrabel and first-year offensive coordinator Arthur Smith to Mariota and his teammates, all pointed the finger at their struggles on third downs for their offensive issues. Too many times the Titans have failed to pick up a first down because they faced third-and-10—or longer.

Smith took all the blame on himself, saying he must call better plays.

Asked if he might be struggling working through his progression for throwing options, Mariota said he didn't think so, though that might be a better question for the coaches.

"I feel like I'm seeing it," Mariota said. "When the time comes and the journey's ending in the pocket, just to get the ball out."

Mariota was listed as not practicing with an injured quad Monday during a walk-through. He said he felt good Tuesday before practicing fully.

Through two games, the Titans are averaging 167.5 yards passing, putting them 27th in the NFL. That's up two slots from last season, but less than the 185.9 yards passing for all of 2018.

Derrick Henry ranked second in the AFC with 1,059 yards rushing last season, and he's averaging 4.9 yards per carry this season and 87 yards per game.

since Sunday's 28-14 loss to the Buffalo Bills had been "business as usual," but he understood that, at 0-2, the Giants are looking for solutions to problems that have led to where they are, including a possible change at quarterback.

It's unclear as to whether Manning saw this coming.

"We're 0-2 and they're—you're looking for answers," Manning said. "So, I get it. When you draft a guy early and you're not winning games, things are gonna come up. So, I just gotta keep working and do whatever my job is."

Meanwhile, Marcus Mariota has looked at the tape, and

the Tennessee Titans quarterback is ready to move on.

Up next is a quick turnaround with the Titans visiting Jacksonville on Thursday night, and a chance for Mariota and Tennessee to fix some of what went wrong in a 19-17 loss to Indianapolis.

"I love playing when the lights are on, and I look for-

ward to these challenges," Mariota said Tuesday. "I look forward to these division games. And our guys I think will be ready to go. It's going to be a challenge, but we're looking forward to it."

Playing in prime time could help Mariota and the Titans (1-1), who have some areas to fix already this young season.

## Ramsey wants out, doesn't want to be distraction for Jaguars

**JACKSONVILLE, Fla.** (AP)—Jalen Ramsey arrived for the season in the back of an armored truck, sending a clear message to the Jacksonville Jaguars about his worth.

It would be fitting if he departed in a dump truck, assuming the Jaguars (0-2) unload their disgruntled defender.

Without saying why or providing much insight, Ramsey confirmed Tuesday that he wants out of Jacksonville and said he doesn't want to be a distraction as Jacksonville prepares to host Tennessee (1-1) on Thursday night.

He said his angst has nothing to do with the franchise declining to offer him a contract extension before this season, but hinted that the coaching staff has failed to use him properly.

Ramsey took two shots at Jaguars coach Doug Marrone, saying "I don't recall" twice when asked about the sideline argument between the two during a 13-12 loss at Houston on Sunday. Marrone uttered the

same phrase after the game.

Ramsey's agent called general manager Dave Caldwell a short time later and requested a trade. The plea became public the following day.

"Let's be clear about something in regards to that," Ramsey said during a 16-minute interview that added more confusion to an already-awkward situation. "I didn't leak that information. Me and my agent, we are not the ones who leaked that information. And I was very strict about that because I did not want it to get out."

"I didn't want to be a distraction. I didn't want everybody asking my teammates all type of questions throughout the week."

Ramsey, who said he hasn't spoken to Marrone since the outburst, said he expects to play against the Titans—unless he's traded. It could be a chance for Jacksonville to showcase one of the league's best cornerbacks on national television.

"As long as I'm a part of

this team, that's all you're going to get from me," Ramsey said. "As long as I'm a part of this team, I hope they go out there and beat the hell out of people. I hope they win every game as long as I'm a part of this team. I got nothing but love for every player on this team; they go out there and play their (butt) off."

"We've got good vibes. I love that locker room. Good vibes."

Two teammates, linebacker Myles Jack and cornerback Josh Robinson, stood in the back of the room to support Ramsey.

"I hope and pray they don't trade his (butt) and he stays here the whole time," Jack said. "I hope he stays here through his fifth year and they tag him and he stays here forever. But that's not my choice. We'll see what the front office does."

Two other teammates told The Associated Press the trade request had as much to do with the direction of the franchise than anything else.

# Giants slip past Red Sox in 15 innings

**BOSTON** (AP)—Mike Yastrzemski, grandson of former Red Sox great and Hall of Famer Carl Yastrzemski, homered in his first game in Fenway Park, and Alex Dickerson had a pinch-hit sacrifice fly in the 15th inning to lift the San Francisco Giants to a 7-6 victory over Boston on Tuesday night.

The game featured a major league record-tying 24 pitchers—including a team-record 13 by the Giants—and had 50 players overall, lasting 5 hours, 54 minutes. “Take Me Out to the Ballgame” was played in the middle of the 14th inning.

San Francisco manager Bruce Bochy, who is retiring at the end of the season, moved one win away from becoming the 11th big-league manager to reach 2,000 victories.

Donovan Solano opened the 15th with a ground-rule double against Trevor Kelley (0-2) and advanced on a wild pitch before the Dickerson’s sac fly.

Derek Rodriguez (6-9) worked two innings for the victory.

## Blue Jays 8, Orioles 5

In Baltimore, rookie Cavan Biggio hit for the cycle, leading Toronto to the victory.

Biggio homered in the third inning, singled in the sixth, doubled in the eighth and tripled in the ninth. He drove in four runs and scored three times.

Biggio and his father, Craig, a Hall of Famer with the Houston Astros, are the second father-son duo in major league history to hit for the cycle, joining Daryle and Gary Ward.

It was also the first time an opponent hit for the cycle in the 27-year history of Camden Yards.

Trey Mancini and Jonathan Villar homered for last-place Baltimore, which lost for the third time in four games. Mychal Givens (2-6) got the loss.

Derek Law (1-2) earned the win by throwing a scoreless eighth inning.

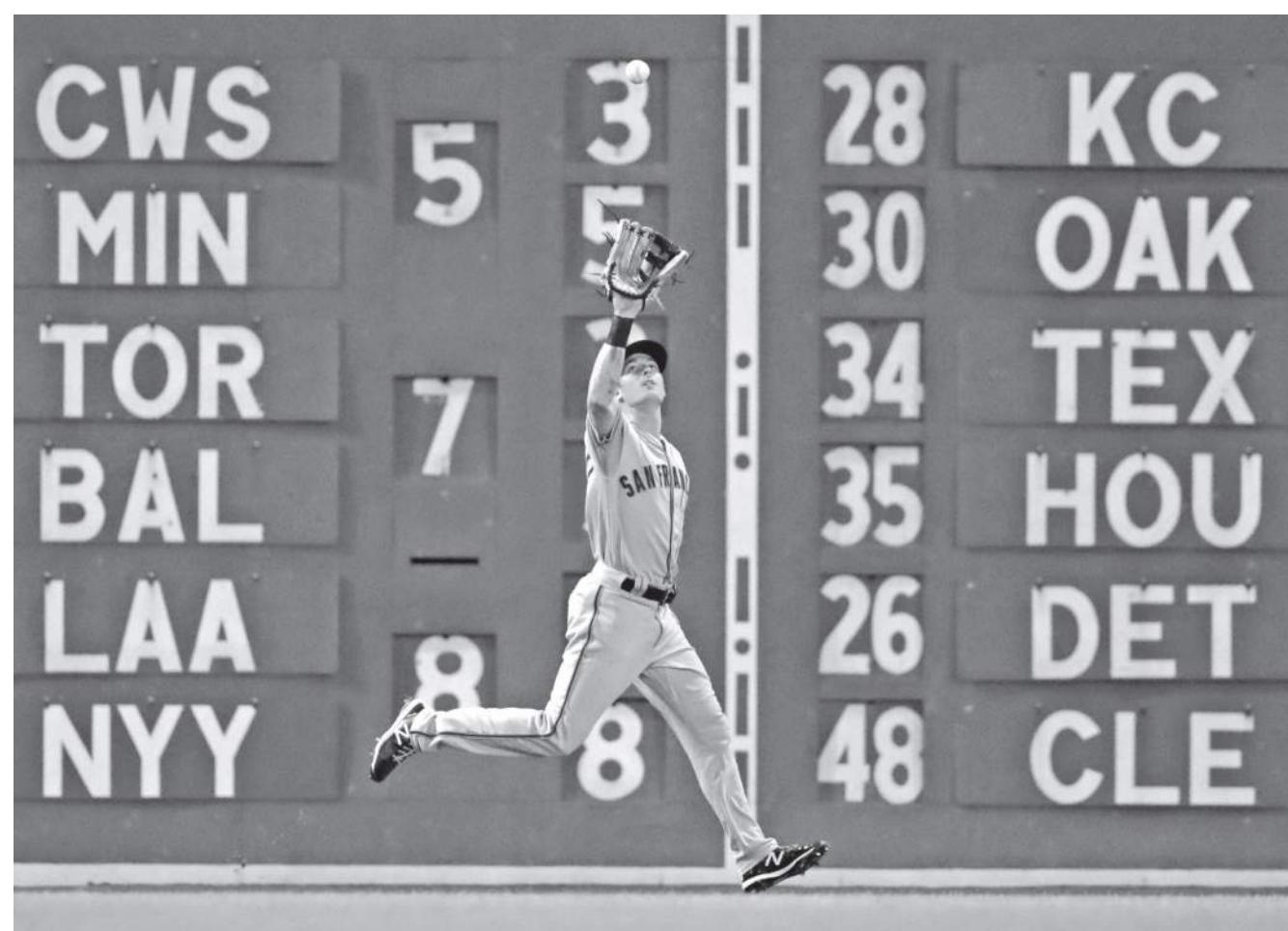
## Yankees 8, Angels 0

In New York, Luis Severino pitched four dominant innings in his injury-delayed season debut for the Yankees.

A two-time All-Star and the ace of the Yankees staff, Severino got hurt while warming up before his first scheduled spring training appearance on March 5.

While Severino was back on the mound, the Yankees announced reliever Dellin Betances partially tore the Achilles tendon in his left foot in his season debut Sunday at Toronto.

New York lowered its magic



number to one over Cleveland to clinch the Yankees’ 55th postseason appearance—22 more than any other team.

Gleyber Torres hit his 38th homer, and Jonathan Loaisiga (2-1) got the win.

Noé Ramirez (5-4) was charged with the loss.

## Brewers 3, Padres 1

In Milwaukee, Mike Moustakas hit his 35th homer, and the Brewers earned their 11th win in 12 games.

Lorenzo Cain also went deep as the Brewers moved into a tie with the Chicago Cubs for the NL’s second wild card. They also pulled within two games of NL Central-leading St. Louis.

Moustakas connected against Matt Strahm (5-9) in the seventh, giving Milwaukee a 2-1 lead. Trent Grisham added a sacrifice fly in the eighth.

Matt Albers (8-5) got the win, and Drew Pomeranz worked two innings for his second save.

## Nationals 6, Cardinals 2

In St. Louis, Patrick Corbin struck out 11 in six innings for Washington, and Howie Kendrick had three hits.

The Nationals increased their lead for the NL’s top wild card to 1 1/2 games over the Cubs and Brewers.

Corbin (13-7) allowed two unearned runs and five hits. Daniel Hudson got six outs for his fourth save.

Miles Mikolas (9-14) pitched six innings before he was lifted for a pinch hitter. He allowed three runs and be-

came the first Cardinals pitcher to lose 14 games in a season since Braden Looper went 12-14 in 2008.

## Dodgers 7, Rays 5

In Los Angeles, Corey Seager drove in four runs, including a go-ahead, two-run double in the seventh, and Los Angeles rallied to beat Tampa Bay.

Seager’s ground-rule double in the fifth was the Dodgers’ first hit of the game and briefly gave them a 2-1 lead. The Dodgers broke the game open in the seventh with five runs and five hits.

Tampa Bay had its lead for the second AL wild card cut to one-half game over Cleveland.

## Twins 9, White Sox 8, 12 innings

In Minneapolis, Ronald Torreyes was hit by a bases-loaded pitch in Minnesota’s three-run 12th inning, and the Twins maintained their five-game lead in the AL Central.

Marwin Gonzalez hit a tying two-run single off José Ruiz (1-4). Torreyes, a September roster addition who has only six plate appearances for the Twins this season, crouched in front of a 2-1 fastball with his bat ready to swing before holding off. The ball grazed his right forearm as he lowered it over the plate, triggering the celebration by the Twins.

The Twins trimmed their magic number for clinching the division to seven.

## Indians 7, Tigers 2

In Cleveland, Adam Plutko pitched six effective innings,

rookie Oscar Mercado homered and the Indians beat Detroit for the 15th straight time.

Cleveland has won 16 of 17 in the season series, with Detroit’s only win coming on April 10 at Comerica Park.

Plutko (7-4) allowed two runs and four hits in his first win since he beat Detroit on Aug. 27.

Mercado hit a solo drive off Zac Reininger (0-3) in the second for his 12th homer.

Dawel Lugo homered in the fifth for Detroit. Víctor Reyes singled in a run in the third.

## Reds 4, Cubs 2

In Chicago, the Cubs were shut down by Sonny Gray and two relievers, hurting their playoff positioning.

Chicago had won five in a row, outscoring its opponents 59-18 during the stretch. But it managed just two runs against Gray (11-7) before Michael Lorenzen and Raisel Iglesias closed out the five-hitter for Cincinnati.

The Cubs (82-69) dropped into a tie for the second NL wild card with Milwaukee.

They also missed out on an opportunity to gain ground on NL Central-leading St. Louis, which lost 6-2 to Washington.

## Astros 4, Rangers 1

In Houston, Justin Verlander picked up his major league-leading 19th win, and Yuli Gurriel, Alex Bregman and Yordan Alvarez homered for the Astros.

The Astros have a magic number of one to clinch a playoff berth and three to capture their third straight American League West title.

Verlander (19-6) struck out eight in six scoreless innings. Roberto Osuna struck out two in the ninth for his 34th save.

Texas starter Lance Lynn (14-11) was tough early and the Astros had just one hit before Gurriel’s home run to the first row of the seats in right field with one out in the fifth.

## Marlins 12, Diamondbacks 6

In Phoenix, Miguel Rojas had a career-high six RBIs, including a three-run double, and Miami rallied past Arizona.

The Marlins pounded 17 hits to beat Arizona for the fourth time in six tries this year. The Diamondbacks’ slim playoff hopes took another hit with the loss: They’re 5 1/2 games behind the Chicago Cubs and Milwaukee Brewers for the second NL wild-card spot with 10 to play.

The Diamondbacks led 4-2 after five innings. Left-hander Alex Young had a solid start, giving up two runs over five innings.

## Athletics 2, Royals 1

In Oakland, Matt Olson hit a tying homer for the Athletics leading off the seventh, and Seth Brown hit a go-ahead double two batters later.

Olson’s drive to center reached the Coliseum’s elevated bleachers in the level above the luxury suites. Jorge Lopez (4-8) then hit Mark Canha with a pitch before Brown doubled.

A.J. Puk (2-0) followed Brett Anderson and struck out two over two shutout innings for his second major league win. Liam Hendriks struck

out two in a 1-2-3 ninth for his 23rd save.

The A’s, who hold the top AL wild-card spot, bounced back after their six-game winning streak was snapped by Monday’s 6-5 loss to the Royals.

## Phillies 5, Braves 4

In Atlanta, Rhys Hoskins and Jose Pirela hit two-run homers off Dallas Keuchel in Philadelphia’s five-run fourth inning.

Vince Velasquez (7-7) gave up two runs in the first before recovering with four straight scoreless innings. The right-hander allowed five hits in five innings for the Phillies.

Héctor Neris worked a rocky ninth for his 27th save.

## Mets 6, Rockies 1

In Denver, Marcus Stroman pitched seven shutout innings, and New York beat Colorado to boost its flickering playoff hopes.

Amed Rosario, Brandon Nimmo and Pete Alonso homered in the sixth for the Mets, breaking open a scoreless game.

New York pulled within four games of Chicago and Milwaukee for the second NL wild card. The Mets have 11 games left in the regular season.

Stroman (9-13) allowed four hits in helping the Mets bounce back from consecutive losses.

## Mariners 6, Pirates 0

In Pittsburgh, Marco Gonzales pitched seven innings, helping Seattle beat the Pirates after Pirates closer Felipe Vázquez was arrested on multiple felony charges earlier in the day.

Vázquez was charged with statutory sexual assault, soliciting a child and pornography, and placed on administrative leave by Major League Baseball.

Vázquez was taken into custody by Pennsylvania State Police on one count of computer pornography/solicitation of a child and one count of providing obscene material to minors, both felonies, stemming from an investigation in Florida. He was later charged in Westmoreland County with felony counts of statutory sexual assault, unlawful contact with a minor and corruption of minors and a misdemeanor count of indecent assault of a person under 16 years old.

# Ronaldo faces Atlético again; PSG takes on Madrid

**MADRID** (AP) — Cristiano Ronaldo faces a familiar foe as Juventus opens its Champions League campaign at Atlético Madrid on Wednesday, while his former team Real Madrid visits a Paris Saint-Germain squad that will be without the attacking trio of Neymar, Edinson Cavani and Kylian Mbappé.

Ronaldo scored a hat trick in the round of 16 last season to help Juventus eliminate Atlético, a team he repeatedly thrived against when playing for its cross-town rival.

Real Madrid caught a break for its opener in Paris as Neymar won't be able to play for PSG because of a suspension and Cavani and Mbappé are injured. Madrid, meanwhile, will be able to count on Eden Hazard, the former Chelsea playmaker who made his competitive debut with the club in a Spanish league game on Saturday.

"Since I arrived I felt the connection that Real Madrid has with the Champions League," Hazard said. "Being here is a dream for me and I hope to make the most of it."

Manchester City visits Shakhtar Donetsk in its quest to succeed in the European competition under Pep Guardiola, while Tottenham—last season's runner-up—travels to Greece to face Olympiakos.

Five-time European champion Bayern Munich hosts Red Star Belgrade.

## Group A

Karim Benzema and the rest

**GENEVA**—Roger Federer plans to decide “in the next month or so” whether he will play at next year’s Tokyo Olympics.

Federer said Tuesday his 2020 schedule is set through Wimbledon, which ends July 12. The week-long Olympic tournament starts July 25 and ends a few days before his 39th birthday.

“I guess I’m going to be deciding on the Olympic Games in the next few weeks, hopefully in the next month or so,” he said.

Speaking ahead of the Laver Cup team competition he co-owns, Federer said he is “very excited about the prospect” of Tokyo.

“I just have to see how is the family, how is my body doing,” Federer said in an interview broadcast by Swiss public television.

Federer is a four-time Olympian. He met his wife at the 2000 Sydney Games and twice carried Switzerland’s flag at opening ceremonies.

“It’s been such a special

of Real Madrid’s forwards will be going against former teammate Keylor Navas, the Costa Rica goalkeeper who joined PSG after lifting three straight Champions League trophies with the Spanish club from 2016-18. He made an impressive debut for PSG in Saturday’s 1-0 home win

against Strasbourg, making a crucial save in each half when the score was 0-0.

“The past is behind me. I had a great time with Real, but now I want to begin a new chapter in my career,” Navas said. “I want to win trophies.”

With Neymar suspended for the first two group games and Mbappé and Cavani recovering from minor injuries, coach Thomas Tuchel has a real headache in attack. Fourth-choice striker Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting had a poor game against Strasbourg and was replaced by Mauro Icardi, who is lacking match fitness following a difficult time with Inter Milan in Italy’s Serie A. Tuchel may choose to use Ángel Di María pushed further forward.

## Group B

Despite a Bundesliga and German Cup double from his first season, Bayern Munich coach Niko Kovac is under pressure to do better in the Champions League.

Kovac’s team was beaten by Liverpool in the round of 16 last season, marking the first time in seven years that it failed to reach at least the quarterfinals.

The team is going through



**AP** Juventus' Cristiano Ronaldo controls the ball during the Italian Serie A soccer match between Juventus and Napoli at the Allianz Stadium in Turin, Italy, Saturday Aug. 31, 2019.

group stage.

Two years ago, City won 2-0 at home and lost 2-1 away, when it had already secured a spot in the last 16. Last season, City won 3-0 away and 6-0 at home, with Gabriel Jesus scoring a hat trick in the second game.

Dinamo Zagreb hosts an Atalanta side that is making its tournament debut after a club-record third-place finish in Serie A last season.

## Group D

With his hat trick in the round of 16 last season, Ronaldo almost single-handedly overturned Juventus’ two-goal first-leg deficit against Atlético.

The star forward is in top form again, coming off a four-goal performance for Portugal against Lithuania two weeks ago.

Juventus struggled in a scoreless draw at Fiorentina in Serie A on Saturday, though, and it hasn’t quite adjusted to the tactics of new coach Maurizio Sarri.

Atlético lost its perfect record in the Spanish league in a 2-0 loss at Real Sociedad at the weekend.

Bayer Leverkusen coach Peter Bosz knows a good start at home to Lokomotiv Moscow is crucial in a group with heavyweights Juventus and Atlético both favored to go through.

an overhaul following the summer departures of Arjen Robben, Franck Ribery, James Rodríguez, Mats Hummels and Rafinha.

Marquee signing Philippe Coutinho has joined on loan from Barcelona, through it re-

mains to be seen how the Brazilian fits into Kovac’s game plan. World Cup winners Benjamin Pavard and Lucas Hernández arrived to shore up the defense.

Tottenham begins its quest to return to the final when it

visits Olympiakos in the other group match.

## Group C

Manchester City and Ukrainian champion Shakhtar Donetsk face each other for the third consecutive year in the

# Federer will decide soon on Tokyo Olympics plans



**AP** Roger Federer returns to Grigor Dimitrov during the quarterfinals of the U.S. Open tennis tournament Tuesday, Sept. 3, 2019, in New York.

WTA Tour in 2020.

The Belgian born Clijsters tweeted a video on Thursday morning to let the world know of her plans.

“What do I really want from life? For the past seven years, I’ve been a full-time mom, and I love it. I really, really do. But I also loved being a professional tennis player. And honestly, I miss that feeling. So ... what if I tried to do both? Could I be loving mum to my three kids and the best tennis player I can possibly be? Let’s do this. Let’s come back one more time. See you in 2020.”

This isn’t the first time that Clijsters, 36, has come out of retirement. She first retired in 2007, and during her 26

event for me,” he said.

Federer won doubles gold with Stan Wawrinka at the 2008 Beijing Olympics and silver in singles at the 2012 London Games, played at Wimbledon. He missed the required amount of Davis Cup games to be eligible by right.

because of injury.

To play in Tokyo, Federer would likely have to get a wild-card exemption from the International Tennis Federation. He has not played the required amount of Davis Cup games to be eligible by right.

## Clijsters coming out of retirement

Kim Clijsters, the retired four-time Grand Slam singles champion, isn’t done with tennis. Clijsters announced on Thursday that she’s coming out of retirement to join the

months away from the game she married Brian Lynch, a former Villanova basketball player, and had her first child. She returned in July 2009, and after making it to the quarterfinals in her first tournament, she won her third tournament—which just happened to be the 2009 US Open.

Clijsters retired for the second time in 2012, and she and Lynch have had two more kids in the seven years since she stepped away. Though she admittedly adores being a full-time mom, she couldn’t ignore the siren call of the sport she loves.

Clijsters made her WTA debut at 15, and hasn’t played a competitive match since she was 29. Over her career, the former world No. 1 has won 41 singles titles and is a six-time Grand Slam champion—four in singles, and two in doubles. When she won the US Open after her first comeback, Clijsters became the third mother to win a Grand Slam singles title in the Open Era.

# IT&E keeps undefeated record

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

IT&E maintained its unbeaten mark following a 92-83 victory over Bridge Capital, LLC in the curtain-raiser in the Atkins Kroll Marianas International Basketball League last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

With its 3-0 record, IT&E gained a share of the lead with Saipan Vegas, while Bridge Capital dropped to a 1-3 slate for the ninth spot in the team standings in the 10-squad field.

Jaymark De Guzman had a double-double to lead IT&E's third straight victory, as he delivered 18 points and 10 rebounds. Three other IT&E players scored in twin digits with Errol Peredo making 16 points and Jack Aranda and Sean Rabasto adding 13 and 11, respectively.

Rabasto and De Guzman combined for 13 points in the fourth period to thwart Bridge Capital's comeback bid. Vince Teregeyo tried to rally back Bridge Capital in the final canto after scoring 12 of his game-high 29 points in that period. However, timely baskets from IT&E young guns frustrated Bridge Capital.

## ITIBUS

*From Page 28*

of my experience is with guard passing. If there's something I learned from my opponent that I could use in my future tournaments, it's that we got to do everything we can in the time given to us," she said.

Iibus explained that international competitors are extremely more aggressive on the mat compared to training at the gym.

"We do go round after round and you kind of build a habit of saving your stamina to last you through the hour-long sparring. However, in a competition, you just got to go 100% from the get-go. It's all or nothing and I just got a gist of what it's like to roll com-



**MS Villagomez 114,  
TanHoldings 51**

In the other game last Tuesday, MS Villagomez hammered TanHoldings.

MS Villagomez sealed the

petitively," she said.

Overall, Iibus said her first tournament experience was a learning one and she did the best with what she was faced with.

"In the end, I just had to believe in myself and try my best. My first tournament experience was definitely something to learn from. My opponent got the arm-bar submission at 2 minutes and 59 seconds in. I definitely felt the experience

she had under her belt and I just had to defend as best I could and I think I did okay with that. She is a 3-stripe white belt and I could tell she had experience at rolling. So, I'm happy I got to witness the level of the white belt division that is out there," she said.

Torchbearers posted a 25-17 win in the opening set and a 25-16 victory in the second.

The GCA Lady Eagles drew first blood against Saipan Southern, 25-15, and then cruised to a 25-7 win in the second set for the sweep.

GCA will go for win No. 2 today when it duels MCS 1 at 4:30pm on the north court, while SIS 1 battles MCS 2 on the south court. At 5:30pm, ACS will face MCS 1, while MHS 2 goes up against Saipan Southern. In the final set of games at 6:30pm, MCS 2 will meet GCA, while SIS 2 will

take on Agape.

Brunei eventually hit five goals in the second half. Then just when the CNMI seemed headed for another goal-less game, Kohtaro Goto scored. It may be just one goal and way behind Brunei's output, but head coach Michiteru Mita and his staff were very proud of it.

"The goal was not a set play or a mistake by the opposition in their defensive half. It was the result of a deliberate and calculated build-up. It only took a couple of seconds to orchestrate, but the boys have been practicing for months back home just to be able to

## First Game

**IT&E 92—De Guzman 18,  
Peredo 16, Aranda 13, Rabasto  
11, Guiab 9, Flores 7, De Dios  
6, Esdrelon 6, Demapan 6.**

## TEEN

*From Page 28*

were able to end the first half without conceding any goals," Vargas added.

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**KIMBERLY BAUTISTA**  
IT&E's Jaymark De Guzman escapes with a fastbreak layup during the fourth quarter of their game against Bridge Capital, LLC in the Atkins Kroll Marianas International Basketball League last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

**Bridge Capital 83—Teregeyo  
29, M. Duenas 16, De-**

leon Guerrero 11, Rangamar 11, Santos 5, Cabaltica 4, Camacho 4, Lizama 3.

**Scoring by quarters:** 26-25, 49-44, 74-67, 92-83

## Second Game

**MS Villagomez 114—Dela  
Cruz 21, Babauta 12, Richard-  
son 12, Ada 8, Augenbaugh 8,**

Deleon Guerrero 8, Lajara 8, Manibusan 6, Pangelinan 6, Teregeyo 4, Villago- mez 2, Kwon 2.

**TanHoldings 51—**

Deleon Guerrero 13, Dayao 11, Tenepere 10, Torregosa 6, Echavez 4, Lumen 4, Centina 3.

**Scoring by quarters:** 32-13, 52-26, 79-36, 114-51

## Mawati tops Max's Restaurant; IT&E Dark prevails

**By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**  
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REPORTER

**TSINGTAO** Mawati and IT&E Dark earned double-digit winning margins against their respective opponents in the 2019 One Pacific Promotional Basketball League last Tuesday at the Civic Center Court.

IT&E Dark dominated IT&E Light in the second game 87-47, while Mawati downed Max's Restaurant in the first match, 84-74.

A 20-7 scoring spurt in the first quarter allowed Mawati to take control of the match. Melvin Rejano led the way for Mawati in the opening period after firing 14 points.

Max's Restaurant picked up its scoring in the ensuing quarters, but Mawati still outgunned its foe in the second and fourth cantos to gain cushion going into the final frame.

Rejano finished with 17 points, while Webb Gontar, Jerome Directo, and Frank Ferrer chipped in 10 apiece for Mawati.

Ogie Herrera had 24 points on a losing effort for Max's, while Sonny Lerio contributed 21.

In the second game, IT&E Dark held IT&E Light to 26 points in the first three quarters en route to a lopsided victory.

IT&E Dark built a 21-10 advantage after the first pe-

riod and pulled away further when IT&E Light registered only 8 points each in the second and third quarters.

Ferrick Aguon paced IT&E with his 18 points, while Ivan Devero added 16, and Michael Cabanas and Dan Mateo had 14 each.

Bryan Santos was the only double-figure scorer for IT&E Light after making 18 points.

## First Game

**Mawati 84—Rejano 17,  
Gontar 10, Directo 10, Fer-  
rer 10, Velasco 9, Avila 8,  
Quizon 6, Nonato 6, En-  
riquez 3, Rena 3, Reyes 2.**



KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Mawati's Julian Rena, left, takes off for a layup against Max's Restaurant's Ramil Tibayan during the third quarter of their game in the 2019 One Pacific Promotional Basketball League last Tuesday at the Civic Center Court.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI's Ariel Narvaez and a Brunei player leap for a header during their game in the Group G Asian Football Confederation U16 Championship 2020 Qualifiers in Jakarta, Indonesia last Monday.

create those specific moments that led to the goal. It was certainly a moment that the entire team could take credit for," Vargas said.

"The team received loads of compliments from spectators, including AFC officials and the officials from other teams. Coach Mita was interviewed after the match and was also asked to talk about the goal. It was definitely one for the books," the team manager added.

Meanwhile, the Teen Ayuyus had their penultimate game last night and it's another test of character match, as they faced host Indonesia and its adoring fans. Then tomorrow, the CNMI crew will close out its campaign in the qualifier when it takes on China.



Giants bench Eli,  
will start rookie  
Jones at QB

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

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Giants slip past  
Red Sox in 15  
innings

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# MHS sweeps opening games



KIMBERLY A. BAUSTISTA  
A Marianas High School 1 player goes for an overhand serve during their game against Saipan International School in the opening of the 2019-2020 PSS Interscholastic Girls High School Volleyball League last Tuesday at the MHS Gymnasium.

By KIMBERLY A. BAUSTISTA  
kimberly\_bautista@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Marianas High School had a perfect record in the opening day of the 2019-2020 PSS Interscholastic Girls High School Volleyball League after winning all their three matches last Tuesday at the MHS Gymnasium.

 MHS 1 bested Mount Carmel School 2 and Saipan International School 2, while MHS 2 prevailed against MCS 1. MHS 1 took three sets to beat MCS 2 and then needed only two sets to prevail against SIS 2. MHS 2 also triumphed against MCS 1 after two sets.

In the MHS 1-MCS 2 game, the Lady Knights eked out a 25-22 victory in the opening set. The Lady Dolphins then recovered in the second set and cruised to a 25-14 win to arrange a deciding third. MHS 1 went on to complete the come-from-behind victory after recording a 15-11 triumph in the third set.

For its second game, MHS 1 this time won the first two sets for the outright victory. The Lady Dolphins registered a 25-18 win in the first set and secured the sweep with a 25-17 triumph in the second.

The Lady Dolphins completed the opening day sweep,

See MHS on Page 27

By KIMBERLY A. BAUSTISTA  
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REPORTER



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
The CNMI Boys U16 National Team players and officials huddle before heading out to the pitch to play against Brunei in the Group G Asian Football Confederation U16 Championship 2020 Qualifiers in Jakarta, Indonesia last Monday.

## Teen Ayuyus settle down

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

With the CNMI Boys U16 National Team over with the first game jitters, the squad has settled down in the Asian Football Confederation U16 Championship 2020 Qualifiers in Jakarta, Indonesia.

“I will definitely be grinding this whole year and putting in the work. No regrets. Everything truly happens for a reason and I know that this loss is only just the beginning of my journey in jiu-jitsu,” she added.

Itibus said her main take-away from competing internationally would be to stick with what your strengths are and go full throttle from the beginning.

“To be honest, I’m not happy with the game I decided to play (guard pull), when most

“The team took everything they learned from their previous game against the Philippines and used the experience as their backbone.

See TEEN on Page 27

## Itibus eager to get better in BJJ



Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu newcomer Lo Itibus is motivated to become a better BJJ practitioner after losing her debut in the 2019 Asian Open in Japan last weekend.

Itibus said that despite the defeat she suffered at the hands of her 3-stripe white belt foe, she is not disappointed at all. The Trench Tech and CNMI’s lone female entry to the tournament, on the contrary, gained inspiration from other competitors in the women’s division and is adamant about putting in the hustle to better her skills for future tournaments.

“I have taken something from this that cannot be re-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Trench Tech’s Lo Itibus, left, tries to pull down her Japanese foe during their bout in the 2019 Asian Open in Tokyo last weekend.

placed. I have seen the level of other females in this sport, in my division and above, and I’m inspired to build my skill and participate in even more tournaments to get that experience on that mat,” said Itibus.

“I will definitely be grinding this whole year and putting in the work. No regrets. Everything truly happens for a reason and I know that this loss is only just the beginning of my journey in jiu-jitsu,” she added.

Itibus said her main take-away from competing internationally would be to stick with what your strengths are and go full throttle from the beginning.

“To be honest, I’m not happy with the game I decided to play (guard pull), when most

“The team took everything they learned from their previous game against the Philippines and used the experience as their backbone.

They were not as nervous and were more focused than they were against the Philippines,” team manager Mikky Vargas said.

The CNMI was shut down by the Philippines and gave up seven goals in its debut in the Group G qualifier. Then again against Brunei, the Teen Ayuyus held their ground in the entire first half, preventing their opponents from making it to the board.

“The team’s spirit reverberated throughout the entire match, and although we were up against physically stronger, faster, and more experienced players, we